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THE Wrestler

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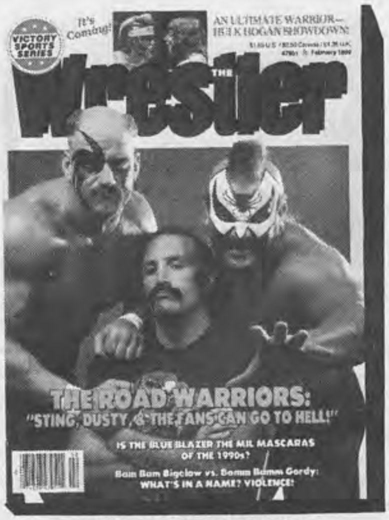

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YOUR LETTERS

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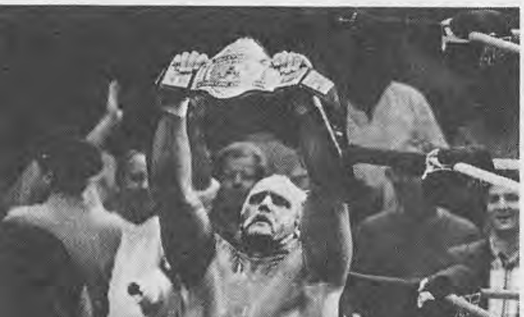
THE REAL WORLD CHAMP

The real world champion is Hulk Hogan, not Ric Flair, Larry Zbyszko, or Jerry Lawler. Who singlehandedly defeated The Twin Towers? Who was the only man to kick out after Randy Savage's mighty elbowdrop? Who was the only man to pin Andre the Giant and defeat him in a cage match? And who is the man who has slammed John Studd, Akeem, Big Bossman, and the 500-pound Andre?

The answer to all these questions is: Hulk Hogan.

AMY SCLAFANE
Bayonne, NJ



Hulk Hogan proudly displays his WWF World heavyweight title belt. Reader Amy Sclafane insists that Hogan is the only *real* world champion.

TOO LATE FOR FLAIR

I am writing in response to the cover story of your September issue, "Our Urgent Plea To Ric Flair: Don't Wrestle Terry Funk." Sad to say, you're too late. Flair *will* defend against Funk. Although out-of-control senseless violence has been condoned, there are more ridiculous aspects to this situation:

- Less than 24 hours after Funk brutalized Flair, Jim Herd gave him a permit to wrestle in the NWA. Had he not, all this violence would never have happened. Then again, Funk might have piledrived Herd and it would have happened anyway.
- Come July 23, his *first* defense, Flair will not have wrestled for 77 days, well exceeding the 30-day limit. Back when Dusty Rhodes was NWA TV champion and was injured for six weeks, the NWA brass stripped him of the title. They wouldn't *dare* do the same to Flair.

The double standard that Bob Geigel and Jim Crockett operated on has been passed to Ted Turner and Jim Herd.

ROBERT HUSE
Georgetown, MA

Terry Funk's attack on Ric Flair is an example of the violence in the sport. The fact that Funk wasn't dealt with more severely is a discredit to the NWA, writes Robert Huse.

JEALOUS WINDHAM

I would like to comment on Barry Windham's letter in your August 1989 issue.

At the beginning of the article [in your June issue, "Lex Luger Wins The U.S. Title: Sting's Exclusive Report To *The Wrestler*"], it was written that if Luger won, Sting would write the article, and vice versa. It was Sting's opinion you read, Barry, *not* that of the editors. I think you didn't see that, Barry; if you had, maybe

you would have changed your mind on Sting's article.

RUTH COOPER
Henderson, NV

DING DONG DOINGS

I just finished watching the finals of the NWA tag team tournament. The whole card was great, until one team came out. When I saw the new tag team called The Ding Dongs, I was on the floor laughing! Please try to find information on these two; I love them!

FRED KNAPP
Washington, NJ

WHAT'S GOING ON?

Having been a wrestling fan for 20 years, I have never seen wrestling in the state it is today.

Let's start with the WWF. Everyone makes fun of the WWF, but it seems all wrestlers want to be in it. Barry Windham has just rejoined after saying two years ago he wanted no part of the WWF with its dolls and glitz, but he's back. On his return, Vince McMahon said, "We don't know too much about 'Widowmaker' Barry Windham." The man was a two-time WWF tag team champion and they don't know too much about him? Get real.

The NWA is trying very hard to become WWF Jr. since Ted Turner took over. The chief complaints here are the new methods of making wrestlers look silly. The Dynamic Dudes fit here. So do The New Zealand Militia.

The AWA is actually getting better. About the only thing there is lousy color commentary. Same with the ICW: good wrestlers and matches, poor commentary.

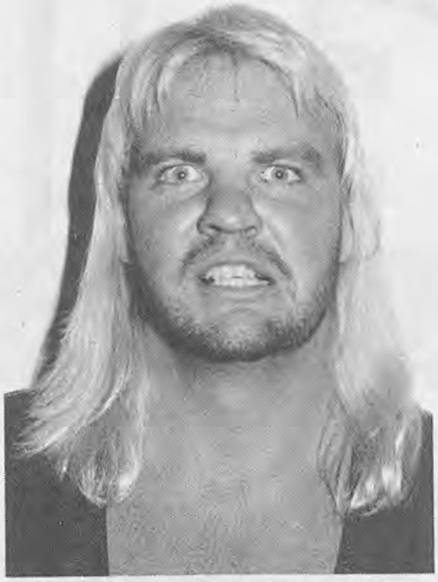
WCCW: no complaints. This is the true wrestling organization. Always something exciting, no glitter, and great action.

ADAM LLOYD
Cape Cod, MA

RENEW THE FEUD

What I wouldn't give for Ricky "The Dragon" Steamboat to resume his feud with Randy Savage that culminated in the electrifying WrestleMania III clash. That was the greatest match I've ever seen!

BRETT CRESWELL
New South Wales, Australia



Although Barry Windham is a two-time WWF tag team champion, Vince McMahon acted like he'd never heard of him. That angered reader Adam Lloyd.

MAIN EVENT MEN

Something is really loose in the heads of some wrestlers. I'm talking about respected and quality talent such as Curt Hennig, The Bushwhackers, Arn Anderson and Tully Blanchard, Barry Windham, Ronnie Garvin, and Dusty Rhodes.

All these men deserve main-event status, even The Bushwhackers, but they are all defecting to the WWF where they will get no title shots and must come up with a gimmick to please WWF circus leader Vince McMahon.

If these wrestlers want to revive their careers, they should do so by first leaving the WWF.

DANIEL KNOWLES
Fairfax, VA

FOREVER VALIANT

Tag team record demolished, eh? Granted, Ax and Smash are a great team and have defeated everything

(Continued on page 44)

Rick Steamboat won't give Randy Savage a moment's rest. Reader Bret Criswell would like to see a resumption of the Steamboat-Savage feud.

WHAT'S HAPPENING!

By BILL APTER

Sting appears to have pinned The Great Muta at their July 23 match in Baltimore. However, a replay showed Muta's shoulders up at the two-count, so Sting's TV belt was held up.

DID **STING** DIG his own professional grave when he came to the rescue of **Ric Flair** at the July 23 Great American Bash? That remains to be seen, but one thing is certain: Sting, who is entitled to matches against the NWA World champion, probably won't wrestle Flair for a long time.

"That's a chance I had to take," Sting said. "I've always said that I'm in this sport because I love it, not for any other reason. You can take all the titles away, you can take all the money away, and I'd *still* wanna wrestle. What's right is right, and what they were doing to Ric just wasn't right."

"They," of course, are **Terry Funk** and **The Great Muta**, who attacked Flair in an ugly post-match incident. Flair had just defeated Funk in a memorable battle.

Sting, however, wasn't only helping out Flair. He was injured by Funk in several incidents during the Bash, and earlier in the evening had battled Muta in a controversial match. When Muta mistakenly blew his mist into referee **Nick Patrick's** face, substitute official **Tommy Young** took over. Sting used a back-suplex to put both men in a pin position, then Young made the count and awarded the match to Sting. The replay, however, showed that Muta's shoulders were up at the two-count and the TV belt was ordered held up.

In other results from the Baltimore Bash: **Sid Vicious** and **Danny Spivey** split the $50,000 prize money as the last two men left in a two-ring battle royal ... **Brian Pillman** defeated **Bill Irwin** ... **The Skyscrapers**—Vicious and Spivey—defeated **The Dynamic Dudes** ... **Jim Cornette** defeated **Paul E. Dangerously** in a tuxedo match ... **Rick** and **Scott Steiner** defeated **Kevin Sullivan** and **Mike Rotundo** ... U.S. champ **Lex Luger** beat **Rick Steamboat** by disqualification ... **The Road Warriors**, **Steve Williams**, and **The Midnight Express** defeated **The Samoan Swat Team**, **Jim Garvin**, **Terry Gordy**, and **Michael Hayes** in a War Games cage bout.

History was made when **Tully Blanchard** and **Arn Anderson**—a.k.a. **The Brain Busters**—won the WWF World tag team belts from

(Continued on page 48)

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WIN LOSE OR DRAW

BY ANDY RODRIGUEZ

ON THE FOURTH day of my two-week vacation in England, I was walking through Hyde Park when I said to my traveling companion, "I don't want to go back to the States."

The Bobby Heenan Show confirms my attitude.

When Heenan was kicked off the WWF's *Prime Time Wrestling* program and replaced by Roddy Piper, the producers gave him his own show to fill the last half-hour formerly taken by *Prime Time*. The resulting monstrosity makes the old *Tuesday Night Titans* look like *Masterpiece Theatre.*

Heenan (and, by logical extension, Vince McMahon) apparently believes he can host a show so bad that people will enjoy watching it just to see how bad it will get. It's the same philosophy that kept *TNT* on the air for two years.

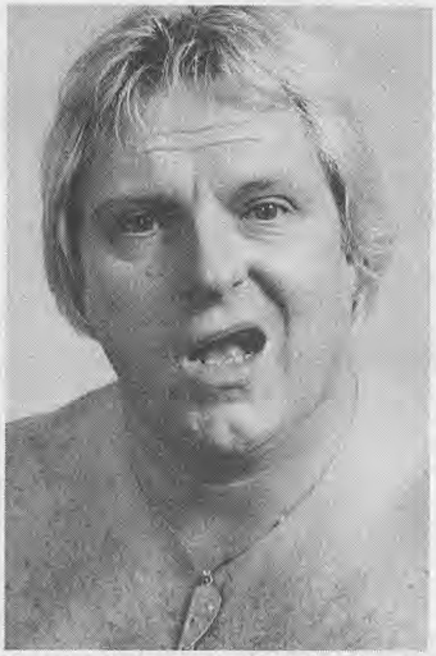
I had heard all sorts of things about the program. Assistant Editor Bob Smith warned me that it was a disaster, but I had to see for myself. Smith is, after all, suspicious of *everything* the WWF has done since 1984.

The show opened with the kind of theme music you'd hear accompanying a normal talk show. Then the WWF's co-host-for-life, Lord Alfred Hays, introduced "The Brain." (By the way, the title of "Lord" is a honor bestowed on a select handful of British subjects. Al Hays isn't one of them.)

There were two guests: an 84-year-old stripper and a man who sang through his nose. In other words, acts all America has been waiting for. Interspersed with their pathetic efforts were Heenan's wisecracking comments.

Heenan also had his "oinkettes," grossly overweight women who are clearly a takeoff on the WWF's "Federettes" of several years back.

Understandably, the entire show is a spoof of the talk-show genre. Fine, but what is it doing as part of a wrestling telecast? Let Heenan gratify his ego on his own



Managing isn't enough for Bobby Heenan; now he has his own TV show. But Andy Rodriguez hopes it gets cancelled.

time and produce the show himself. He can afford it. Better yet, he should stick solely to managing, where he's had a lot of success recently leading Rick Rude and The Brain Busters to titles.

At least *TNT* had some occasional inspired moments of silliness that made it worth watching. *The Bobby Heenan Show* is an embarrassment.

Just like its host.

***

After tooling around London for two weeks, I got the impression that there are more Indian restaurants in that city than wrestling fans.

Officially, I was on vacation; unofficially, I was trying to determine the state of wrestling there. My only previous knowledge about the mat sport in Britain came from *Monty Python's Flying Circus,* when a vicar and a philosopher wrestled to determine the existence of God.

While England may be the native land of Davey Boy Smith, Dynamite Kid, and Chris Adams, there isn't much wrestling on the telly (of course, unless one has cable, there are only four channels). Plenty of cricket—even badminton—but no grappling. There may be live cards, but I didn't see any advertised. My colleague Dave Rosenbaum went to Hungary, of all places, and got an interview with Otto Wanz. I didn't see any wrestlers in England, but I did meet some fans who were concerned about the sport's absence.

"Look at the Bulldogs, for example," one fan told me. "Davey Boy and Dynamite might be feuding, but they're brilliant, really. But we don't see 'em over here. I

(Continued on page 45)

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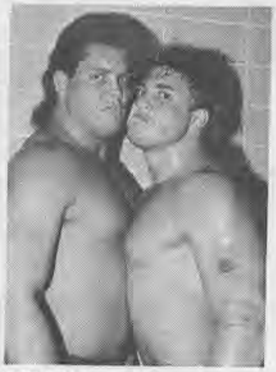
BLINDSIDED

BY BOB SMITH

I'VE BEEN A wrestling fan for a long time, but I've never seen the tag team scene change as radically as it has during the past couple of months. Before, it was getting so you wouldn't even have to look at our ratings. You just knew The Road Warriors would be solidly entrenched in the number-one position, Demolition would be rolling along as WWF World tag team champions, and Bad Company would somehow maintain their tenuous hold on the AWA World tag title.

Of course, that was yesterday. Today, Tully Blanchard and Arn Anderson have become the first team ever to hold both the NWA and WWF tag titles with their controversial victory over Ax and Smash. Jim Garvin and Michael Hayes are the most unlikely champs the NWA has seen in years, and the AWA World tag title remains in limbo because of injuries suffered by Brad Rheingans and Ken Patera.


Wildside

Those teams had best be at the top of their games, because I've never seen so many talented young duos come into the sport, seemingly all at once. And I wouldn't be surprised if many of them win major tag team titles by the end of this year—they're all *that* good. And so, without further ado, a guide to the sport's hottest new tandems:

Wildside: Fans of the long-lamented New Breed—Chris Champion and Sean Royal—should be heartened to know that Champion has resurfaced in Memphis. He and Mark Starr have already captured the CWA tag team title twice in a matter of months. In fact, they've dominated the CWA ever since debuting in the spring, and their wily combination of aerial brilliance and brawling seems to improve with each passing match. "This team is picking up where The New Breed left off," boasted Champion. "This time, however, *nothing's* gonna stop us until we hold a world tag team title somewhere."

The Skyscrapers: Teddy Long's new team is an awesome NWA force. The 6'8", 318-pound Sid Vicious *alone* is frightening enough, but put him in the same ring with 6'8", 300-pound Dan Spivey and you've got a recipe for destruction. "I don't care who they put us in there with," said Long. "I don't care if it's The Road Warriors or *anybody*. We're the biggest team in the NWA, and it won't be long before they're calling us the best."

Rick & Scott Steiner: It's Suplex City when these two former University of Michigan standouts join forces. Scott's amazing "blockbuster" suplex is an incredible thing to watch, and it's likely to end up as one of the most influential maneuvers of the '90s. The Steiners have already given the Freebirds a solid run for their money, and with more title opportunities the NWA World tag belts could end up in their hands.

The Dynamic Dudes: At first, the pairing of Johnny Ace and Shane Douglas didn't strike fear into the hearts of their opponents, but these young stars have come into their own since gaining more experience. Their double belly-to-back suplex has spelled victory over larger teams like The New Zealand Militia. "We just needed some time to hone our skills," insisted Douglas. "Right now we'd like to get our hands on that Samoan Swat Team. If we can beat them, we'll have proven we're ready for anything."

The Destruction Crew: Wayne Bloom and Mike Enos may already be the most brutal duo in the sport. Since forming a team early this year, they've retired Wahoo McDaniel with an eye injury and put Brad Rheingans out of action indefinitely with shoulder and knee injuries. "What better way to make yourself known than to cripple?" asked Johnny Valiant, the team's unscrupulous manager. "We should be the AWA World tag team champions right now. Since Rheingans and Ken Patera have been unable to defend—thanks to us—it would've been smarter if they had just handed the belts over to us right away. Instead, we'll just have to keep hurting people until we get what we want."

I respect Enos and Bloom, but I can't say I admire them. They're too good to ignore, but they're too vicious to condone. Joe Blanchard, where are you? □

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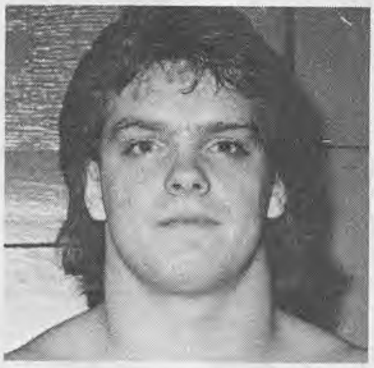
Thumbs Up

Each issue, *The Wrestler* will praise the noteworthy and damn those who violate the honor of wrestling. The praiseworthy receive a Thumbs Up, the disgraceful are marked with a Thumbs Down. Here is this month's roll of honor and shame.

Thumbs Up to Ric Flair. The six-time NWA World champion had nothing to gain and everything to lose by wrestling Terry Funk at the Great American Bash. He had already suffered serious neck and back injuries in a previous attack by Funk and was warned by no less an authority than orthopedic surgeon Dr. Joseph Estwanick that a return to the ring could be dangerous. But Flair, who lives for the sport, showed guts and determination when he came back to wrestle and beat Funk. It might not have been the greatest match of all-time, but it was one of the most memorable. Flair has earned our respect.

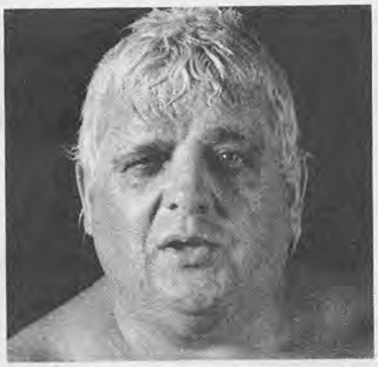
Thumbs Up to Jackie Fargo. Manager Ronald P. Gossett, undoubtedly one of the most villainous individuals in CWA history, needed to be humbled. Fargo, a legendary wrestler who rarely enters the ring these days, did the job. Fargo boxed Gossett several times and knocked him out on every occasion. Ordinarily, we'd say that boxing and wrestling should never mix, but if this was the only way to silence Gossett, fine. Of course, men like Gossett never seem to go away. That's why it's important to have men like Fargo on the side of good.



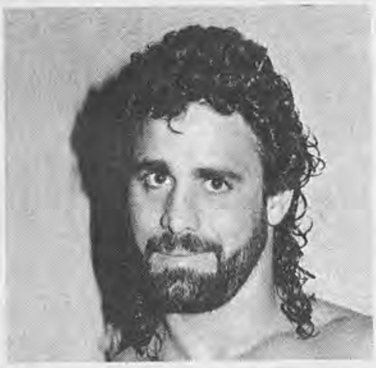
Thumbs Up to Chris Benoit. "I didn't want to disappoint the fans," Benoit said after losing his British Commonwealth title to Johnny Smith on July 7 in Dawson Creek, Alberta. But everybody would have understood if Benoit didn't appear: Three days earlier, he, Davey Boy Smith, Jason the Terrible, Samu Hara, and announcer Ross Hart were involved in a serious automobile accident. Benoit was badly shaken up and considered taking some time off, but decided that he had an obligation to the sport and the fans. The following night in Grand Prairie, Alberta, Benoit was rewarded: He regained the title.

Thumbs Up to Elizabeth. Frankly, we're a bit disgusted when Hulk Hogan and other male wrestlers strongarm "Sensational" Sherri Martel. That's why we were glad to see the usually unaggressive Elizabeth take a stand. And although we'd rather not see Elizabeth wrestle Martel, their numerous confrontations proved a point: Elizabeth will not back down. Martel cannot get away with all her outside interference. Too often, Elizabeth appeared to be a meek bystander. Now we know how angry she can get when provoked.

Thumbs Down

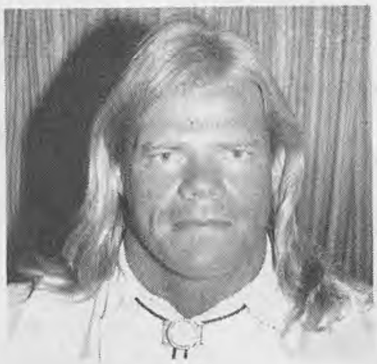


Thumbs Down to Dusty Rhodes. The "American Dream," a three-time former NWA World champion, has flushed his reputation down the toilet since returning to the WWF. Although he's at an advanced stage of his career, Rhodes still had a lot to offer WWF fans: an entertaining and effective ring style, a dedication to what's right, and a down-home personality that's hard not to like. Instead, he decided to participate in embarrassing videos that make him look like an idiot and have nothing to do with wrestling. The "Son of a Plumber" video, especially, was sickening. It had no place on TV.



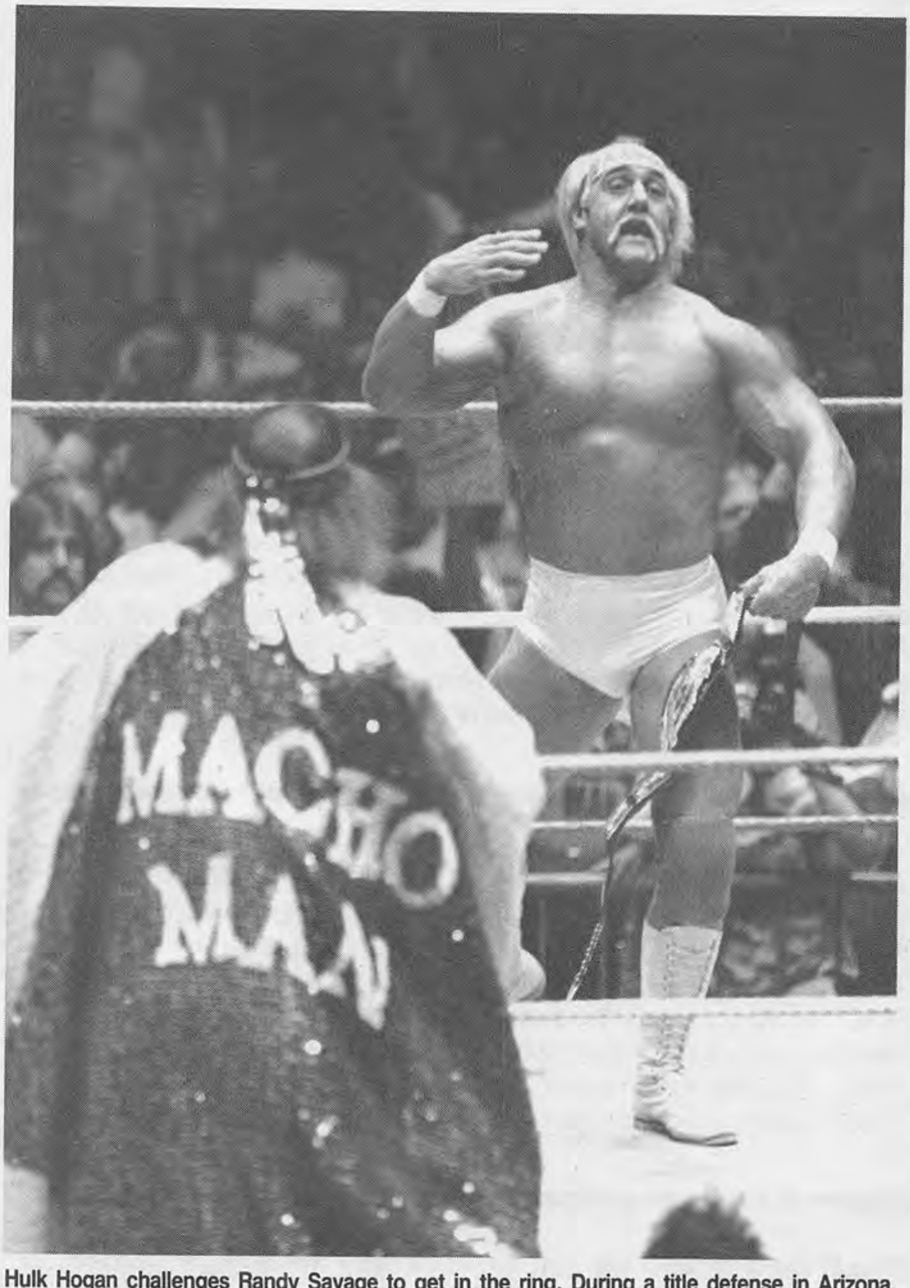
Thumbs Down to Al Perez. Face it, Perez: You're scum. Your entire career has been filled with the lowest of actions, and you've always been associated with the most common wrestling criminals. Occasionally, you've tried to straighten yourself out, but in the long run, your true self takes over. In fact, you'd save our time and yours if you'd just remain a rulebreaker for the remainder of your career. Associating with Gen. Skandor Akbar seems right for you. Giving in to his six-figure offer was no surprise; we always knew you would. Some people just can't be rehabilitated or trusted. You're one of them.

Thumbs Down to Top Gun. Sacrificing his relationship with the fans and a friendship with The Southern Rockers for the pursuit of the almighty dollar was downright shameful. When the Rockers held an autograph party for the fans, Top Gun was irate about not being asked to participate. Then, during a match pitting the Rockers against Jonathan Boyd and Scotty the Body, Top Gun interfered and piledrived Steve Doll. His reward: $5,000 from Scotty the Body's mother. Top Gun has since teamed with Scotty to win the PNW tag team title from the Rockers. But even more importantly, Top Gun has become Turn Coat.



Thumbs Down to Lex Luger. On a night of many crimes against the sport, the most serious committed at the July 23 Great American Bash was Lex Luger's: a crime against fair play. It didn't take long for us to find out why Luger, the U.S. champion, wanted the no-disqualification stipulation waived for his match against Rick Steamboat: All along, Luger planned to use a chair on Steamboat so that he could injure his opponent and save his belt by DQ at the same time. Fortunately for "The Dragon," he was able to get the chair away from Luger before any damage was done. Unfortunately, *Steamboat* was disqualified, and Luger got away with his dastardly plan. □

CORRESPONDENTS REPORTS



Hulk Hogan challenges Randy Savage to get in the ring. During a title defense in Arizona, the "Hulkster" had to deal with not only Savage, but his manager Sherri Martel.

Globe, AZ ***(Correspondent—Ben Leatherman):*** The main event at the Arizona Veterans Memorial Coliseum was a contest for the WWF World title. Randy Savage came to the ring first with "Sensational" Sherri Martel. Then the Coliseum crowd exploded as World champion Hulk Hogan came to the ring.

Savage left the ring as Hogan made his entrance, but Martel stayed and tried to fend off Hogan. She got atomic-dropped for her trouble, sending her sprawling out of the ring.

The "Macho Man" returned and Hogan got him in a headlock, holding it for about two minutes until Savage raked the "Hulkster's" eyes and hit him with two closed fists. When the referee was warning Savage, Martel choked Hogan.

Savage then hit Hogan with two jarring suplexes, then mounted the top rope and delivered a flying elbowsmash. He covered Hogan, but only got a two-count. Savage then set him up for a piledriver, but Hogan reversed it and attempted a clothesline. Hogan ducked under, kicked Savage in the face, and hit him with a legdrop, resulting in a cover for the three-count.

In other bouts: Demolition beat Akeem & Big Bossman by DQ . . .

(Continued on page 50)

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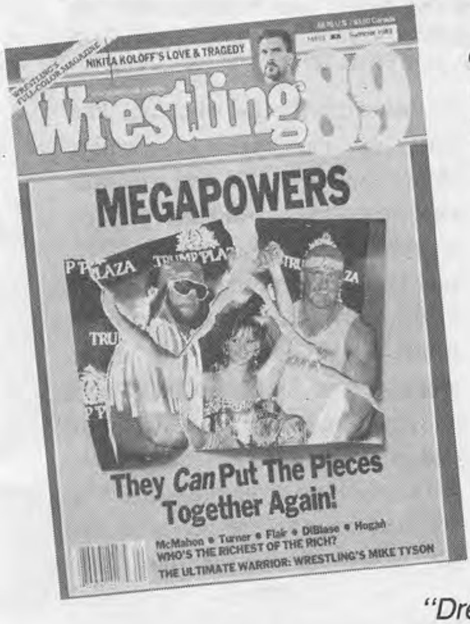

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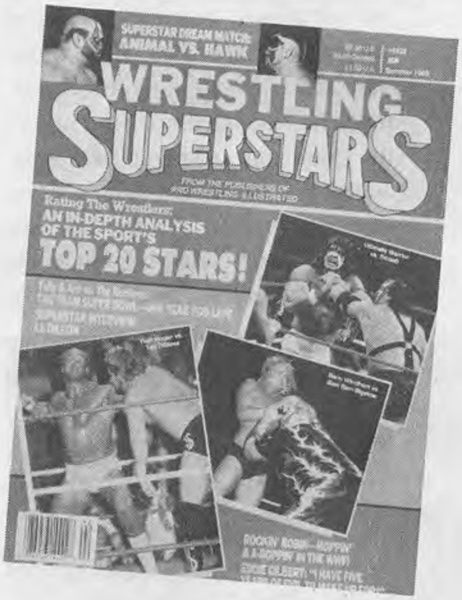

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Q: "My question is for former NWA World champion Rick Steamboat: You have engaged in some classic feuds with former WWF World champ Randy Savage and current NWA World champ Ric Flair. Who do you think is the better wrestler?"—Dan Mackay, Trenton, MI.

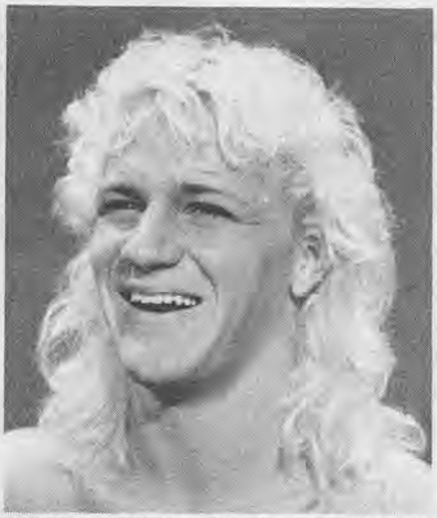
A: **"That's a very good question, Dan" Steamboat responded. "Savage is a fine wrestler, but he's also very dangerous and he has this tremendous killer instinct. There aren't too many men with more of a will to win than Savage, and I've always thought he could be one of the greatest ever if he could somehow harness his emotions. Unfortunately, he sometimes concentrates too hard on maiming his opponents. As for Flair, there's never been a greater wrestler in the sport's history. To me, he's the perfect wrestler, great scientific skills, tremendous stamina, unbelievable concentration, and he knows how to work a match in his favor. He's smart and talented. What more could you ask for?"**

Rick Steamboat whips Ric Flair across the ring. Steamboat has wrestled Flair dozens of times and regards him as one of the all-time greats.

***

Q: "My question is for Jeff Jarrett: When you're not wrestling, what do you do in your spare time? And who are some of your favorite musical groups?"—Sheila Page, Colt, AZ.

A: **"Well, right now I have my hands full with getting my CWA title back from Black Bart, so I don't have much free time," responded Jarrett. "I spend a great deal of my time outside the ring working out, because it's important to keep in shape. But when I do have some time to myself, I like to take in a movie, go into town to check out the mall, or just pick at my guitar. I'm a real big country and western fan, and I listen to a lot of Willie Nelson and George Strait."**



Jeff Jarrett divides his time between the CWA and World Class. At the moment, his toughest opponent is former World Class champion Black Bart.

***

Q: "I have a question for AWA President Joe Blanchard: When you became president, I figured you'd be different from Stanley Blackburn. But already you've taken the title away from Sgt. Slaughter when he won it fair and square. What's the deal? Are you going to be a biased president, too, Mr. Blanchard?"—Joseph Marachik, St. Paul, MN.

A: **"I'm sorry you feel that way," Blanchard responded, "and I think I'd better clarify this situation. The rules of the match in which Slaughter wrestled World champion Larry Zbyszko did not call for a substitute referee. The only decision that counted was the decision of the sanctioned referee, who happened to be knocked out. Also, many people have implied that I am biased toward rulebreakers, but that is totally untrue. I make decisions I feel are right for the AWA and that was true for my predecessor, Stanley Blackburn, too."**

***

Q: "My question is for Rick Steiner, Scott Steiner, and Eddie Gilbert: If one of you won a major singles title and the other two were the top contenders for the title, would you give them a match?"—Kevin Gunn, Corpus Christi, TX.

A: **Rick Steiner responded: "They'd be the first people I'd ask. Why *not* wrestle your friends? This is a sport, right? And they're my friends, aren't they? And I'd have the title, right? And they'd want it, right? So if they want to wrestle me, they can go ahead and do it. Wait a second, Scott's not my friend, he's my brother, isn't he?" Scott Steiner responded: "I don't think either of them would ask for a title shot, but if they did I'd immediately say yes. These are guys I can trust, and I know it**

(Continued on page 59)

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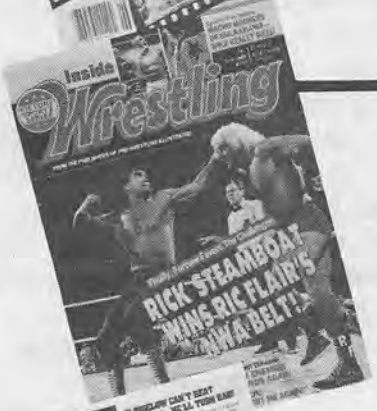

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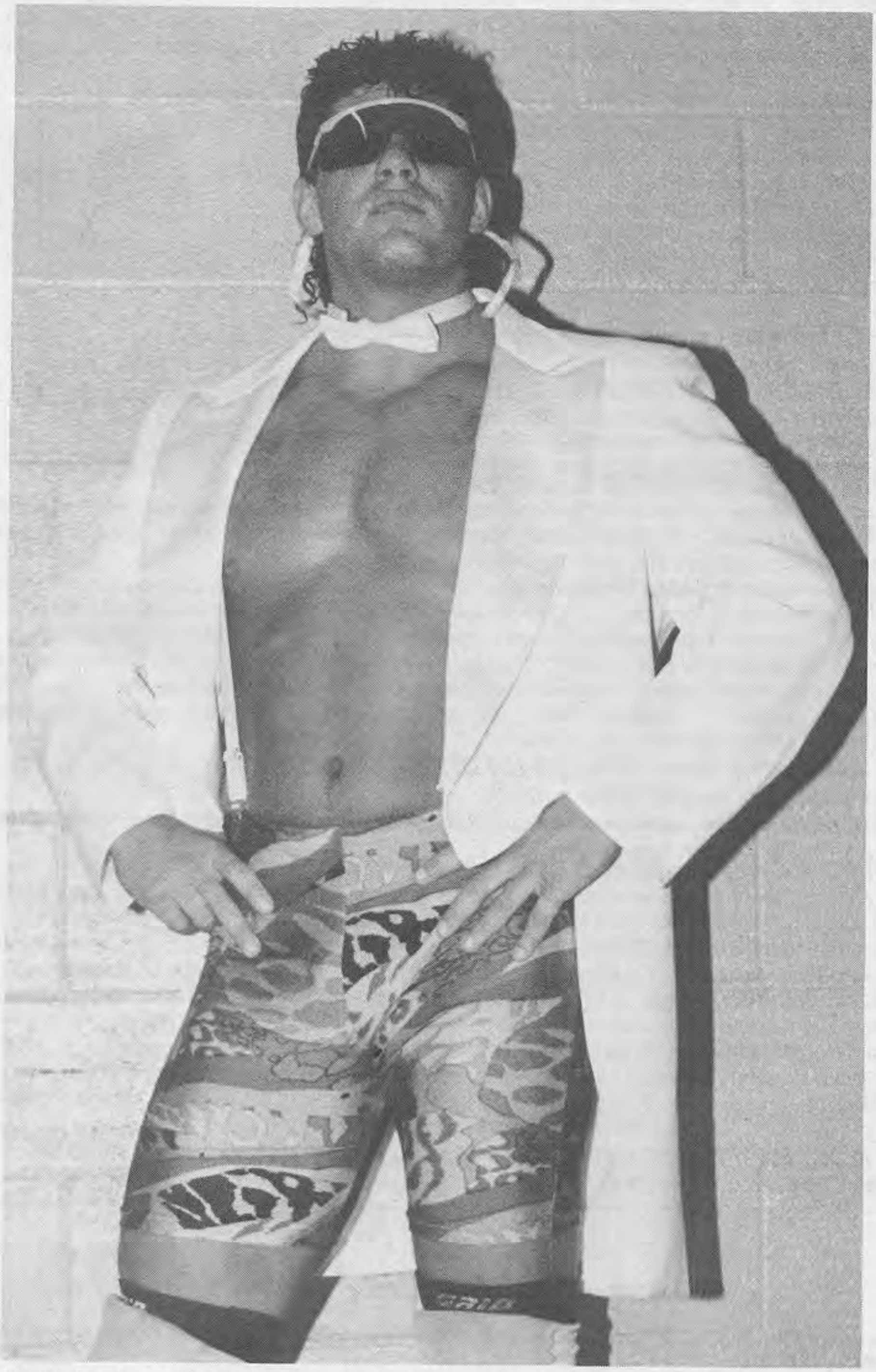

Scotty the Body is an arrogant young man who thinks he's the hottest thing going in the Pacific Northwest. He's convinced he'll soon dominate the sport.

"WHEN YOU COMBINE intelligence and looks the way I do, of *course* you're going to be an overnight sensation," boasts Scotty the Body, an outrageous newcomer to the Pacific Northwest area. "Not many are born with my kind of talent, so people naturally are in awe of me. You just know I'm going to end up as the biggest star this sport has ever seen."

Those are strong comments from a man who's been a professional wrestler for fewer than two years, but Scotty surely isn't lacking for confidence. In fact, he recently teamed with Top Gun to win the PNW tag team championship from Steve Doll and Scott Peterson, the most established team in the federation.

"A piece of cake," claims Scotty, who is only 24 years old. "The Gun and I taught those Southern Rockers that they'd better not mess with an ultra-professional such as myself, or they're only going to end up defeated. Hey, that's a lesson *everybody's* gonna learn, baby."

Scotty was born with the proverbial silver spoon lodged firmly in his mouth. He claims his father is one of the richest men in North America—although he refuses to say what he does for a living—and that he grew up in *two* homes: one located on sprawling acreage in New Jersey, the other in an exclusive area of Florida. In fact, he openly admits he's been

(Continued on page 58)

He's cocky, he's outspoken, and he's abrasive. He's Scotty the Body, and if he continues to insult people the way he has, he'll end up as the most hated man in the Pacific Northwest!

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THE WRESTLER

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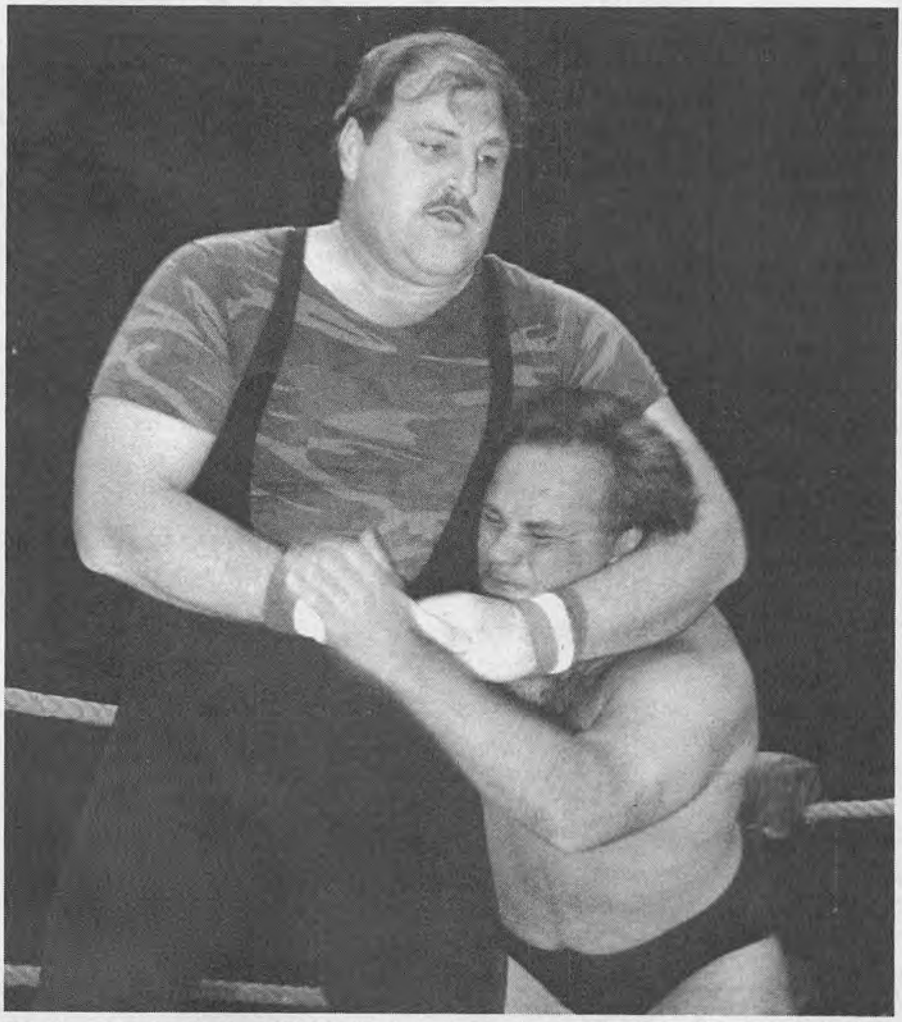
Q&A

Each month, *The Wrestler* will present a "Question and Answer" forum with an important figure in the wrestling world. It is your chance to meet wrestling's biggest stars as they answer the questions uppermost in the fans' minds



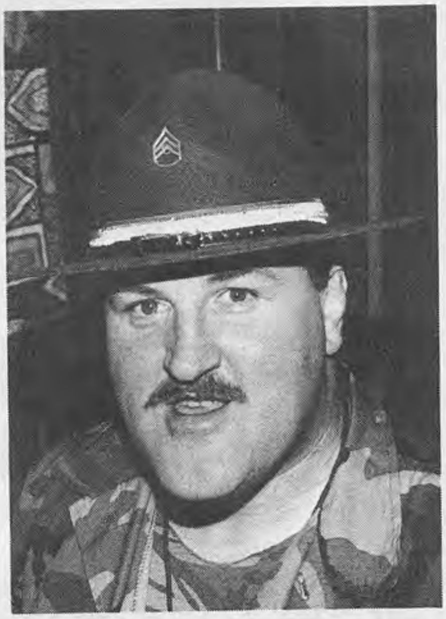
Sgt. Slaughter headlocks AWA World champion Larry Zbyszko. Slaughter thought he had defeated Zbyszko for the title, but AWA President Joe Blanchard reversed the decision.

Q: The first, and most obvious, question is, why aren't you AWA World heavyweight champion?

A: **It's still a bit of a mystery to me, Apter. All I know is that I had that worm Zbyszko out cold, they called for the bell, they gave me the belt, and they announced to the crowd that I was the new champion. At that point, I really figured that I had finally achieved my goal of being the top man in the AWA. But just a few minutes later, Blanchard came in to the locker room and grabbed the belt from me. I couldn't believe what I was seeing!**

Q: It surely didn't take long for Blanchard to be forced to make a controversial decision as AWA president. He claims that he *had* to take the title from you because you struck Gary DeRusha with your "Slaughter cannon" right before you locked Zbyszko in that cobra clutch. How disappointed are you with Blanchard's actions?

A: ***(pauses)* I have to tell you, civilian, that this is one of the biggest letdowns of my wrestling career. It really was one of the best matches I've ever competed in, I'll tell you that much. I had lousy Larry on the run from the time the opening bell rang. He kept trying to stall and get out of the thick of the action, but I managed to keep him in the ring instead of backing away like he usually does. When I locked**



SGT. SLAUGHTER

FOR YEARS, SGT. SLAUGHTER has been wrestling's greatest patriot, a man who defends the honor of the United States with his sweat and blood, primarily against foreign wrestlers who denegrate the United States while taking full advantage of the country's vast opportunities.

Slaughter's most recent rival, however, is not a vociferous anti-American. He is from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and he holds a title Slaughter has lusted after for years. His name is Larry Zbyszko.

For one fleeting moment in July, it looked as if Slaughter's long-standing dream of becoming a world champion was about to come true. Slaughter actually made Zbyszko submit to his cobra clutch in a bout in Rochester, Minnesota. He would be awarded the championship belt, but have it coldly taken back shortly after.

Moments before scoring the apparent victory, Slaughter had mounted the ropes to deliver a flying clothesline to a staggering Zbyszko. The champion moved out of the way, and Slaughter accidentally knocked out referee Gary DeRusha with the maneuver. Although a second referee, Tom Burton, ran into the ring to rule the submission, AWA President Joe Blanchard reversed the decision because, he said, Slaughter had to be disqualified for striking DeRusha. It was yet another in a long line of controversial verdicts regarding the AWA belt.

Undaunted, Slaughter is vowing to again wrestle Zbyszko—but this time, he wants a no-disqualification match. Senior Editor Bill Apter was in Minnesota to speak with the former Marine drill instructor about his heartbreaking loss.

him in my cobra clutch, he wilted under my power almost instantly. I realized that DeRusha was out of it, but when I saw that second referee, Tom Burton, get into the ring, I figured there was a provision that would allow a second licensed official to finish the match. No such luck, eh? It was an accident, pure and simple. I never intended to hit DeRusha. Hell, every fan in the arena knew I would never intentionally strike a referee. It's crazy!

Q: You can't feel *too* terrible about the decision, though. After all, you defeated Zbyszko for the Americas title back in '85, and if it weren't for this decision, you'd be the AWA champion right now. You've definitely proved that you've got Larry's number.

A: That's for sure. I can proudly state that I have absolutely no fear of Larry Zbyszko whatsoever. I've beaten him so many times that it's almost getting to be routine. And I've already been granted a series of title matches by the president—hell, Blanchard owes me at *least* that much. This time, though, I don't want there to be any way for Zbyszko to get away with another fluke decision. I want a no-disqualification, no-time-limit match against that lying maggot. Let's see if he can beat me without legal loopholes he can climb through. I

Slaughter stops a Zbyszko kick to the midsection. Sarge has come close to winning Zbyszko's AWA World title several times.

Zbyszko chokes Slaughter with a cable. A few years ago, Slaughter won the Americas title from Zbyszko, but he realizes that world championships are more difficult to obtain.

know that he'll never be able to do it.

Q: I know a lot of fans are happy to see you going after the AWA title, but some people are worried that you may be losing sight of your goal of driving the anti-American forces out of wrestling. Have you softened your position in that regard?

A: That's a ridiculous thought, and I'm surprised that a man who knows me as well as you do would even ask a question like that. Now hear this, Apter, and hear it good: Whenever someone puts down this country or dares to defile the good name of the United States, you just *know* I'll be there to push those words right back down his throat. That's why I'm unhappy with some of the scum that seems to be creeping back into the AWA.

Q: You must be talking about Sheik Adnan Al-Kaissie.

A: That's right. You know, I thought I ran that guy out of the AWA earlier this year, but I guess he hasn't learned his lesson yet. Al-Kaissie has to be one of the biggest embarrassments to this sport. He's getting pretty old and decrepit, but he keeps jumpin' in that ring just because he's obsessed with doing away with American wrestlers—the ones he can't buy off, that is.

Q: What do you mean?

A: Well, lately Mike George has been hanging around with Al-Kaissie, and it's a situation that sickens my stomach. George is a big, tough veteran, but for a man like that to turn his back on his own country to aid an Iraqi maggot like that—well, in my book it's the worst thing he could possibly do. It's a good thing there are men like myself, Greg [Gagne], Derrick Dukes, and Paul Diamond around to try and get rid of these slugs.

Q: Did I hear that right? You mentioned Diamond, the former member of Bad Company! Have you struck a friendship with him, considering his checkered past?

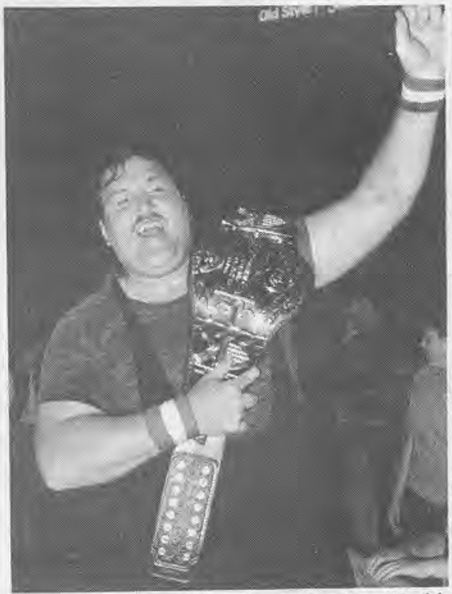
A: You bet I have. Hey, I don't care what road a man has traveled in the past. Look at my career, Apter. Just about everybody knows that I broke the rules for years before I finally came to my senses and started defending this great country. I think that Paul was just as misled and misguided as I used to be. It's really easy to get suckered in by promises of wealth and titles. That's why I was a protege of The Grand Wizard for so long. But Paul is a rapidly maturing young man, and now he realizes that "Diamond" Dallas Page was leading him down the wrong path. Paul's been doing a terrific job battling that Japanese traitor, Akio Sato, so that says more about him than I ever could.

Q: You've also been wrestling in a lot of tag team matches recently with Scott "Flash" Norton and other partners. What are your impressions of that massive youngster?

A: Well, the first time I saw him I just stepped back and said, "Wow!" I mean, he's a former heavyweight arm-wrestling champion, and he packs more power into his 360-pound frame than anyone I've seen in a long, long time. He's still a little raw as a wrestler at this point, but believe me, I need to have men like him around to aid me in my wars against those foreigners.

Q: But the foreign element is only part of the problem in the AWA these days. Mike Enos and Wayne Bloom, The Destruction Crew, have been responsible for a host of injuries lately. They retired Wahoo McDaniel . . .

A: At ease, Apter. You don't have to inform me about what they did to Wahoo. Those thugs almost took McDaniel's right eye out of the ring with them. Well, I've got a warning for Bloom, Enos, and that worm of a manager, Johnny Valiant. Wahoo is a close friend of mine. In all my years as a professional wrestler, I never saw a man



Slaughter leaves the ring with the World title belt, but it would be taken away from him moments later.

with nearly as much guts and determination as McDaniel has. I know I had some pretty tough matches against him a few years ago, but we came out of our feud with deep respect for one another. Wahoo has a lot of friends, including myself, Greg Gagne, Kenny Patera, Derrick Dukes, and a bunch of others. One of us is going to get revenge for our fallen friend, and I hope it's me, Apter. I really hope it's me. I'd be proud to take those guys out.

Q: Of course, however, your main goal right now has to be taking the World title belt from around Zbyszko's waist.

A: That's a certainty. I am not going to sit here and make a lot of idle threats about what I'm going to do to Zbyszko. I'm not going to claim that I'm faster or stronger than he is, although I probably am. *(laughs)* But I *am* going to teach that man the same lesson I did four years ago. Back then, he didn't give me a ghost of a chance of taking that Americas title, but once I finally got my hands on him, I defeated him soundly. I beat him again in Rochester, too, but I got robbed. It won't happen again. I have the discipline. I have the determination. And best of all, I've got the American wrestling fans behind me. How can I lose? □

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Wrestler

SPOT LiGHTS...

From time to time, *The Wrestler* will shine its spotlight on an outstanding wrestler, manager, or tag team. These are unforgettable highlights of the sport's greatest stars, compiled by the largest staff of editors and photographers in wrestling journalism

ELIZABETH

ONCE MERELY A secondary distraction to the action in the ring—a brown-haired beauty who happened to be the manager of Randy Savage—Elizabeth has become a central figure in one of wrestling's hottest feuds.

One wouldn't think of the petite Elizabeth as being much of a threat. Contrary to her quiet demeanor, however, she is currently feuding with "Sensational" Sherri Martel, a former AWA and WWF World women's champion who's as dangerous as she is determined.

It wasn't always this way. Back in 1985, Savage shocked the wrestling world by naming Elizabeth as his manager. But before long, people wondered who was managing who. Savage appeared domineering and cruel to Elizabeth. But make no mistake: Elizabeth was the brains behind the "Macho Man." Shortly after their arrival in the WWF, Elizabeth convinced Savage to go after the Intercontinental title. Her game plan was on target: On February 6, 1986, in Boston, Savage won the I-C title from Tito Santana.

This focused more attention on Elizabeth—and Savage's treatment of her. He verbally abused Elizabeth in public and threatened her with physical violence. It was, indeed, a strange pairing: The fans hated Savage but loved his manager. Savage's jealousy became even more apparent when George Steele developed a crush on Elizabeth, resulting in a long feud between Savage and "The Animal."

Elizabeth broke with Randy Savage after nearly four years as his manager. Now she's feuding with Savage's current manager, Sherri Martel.

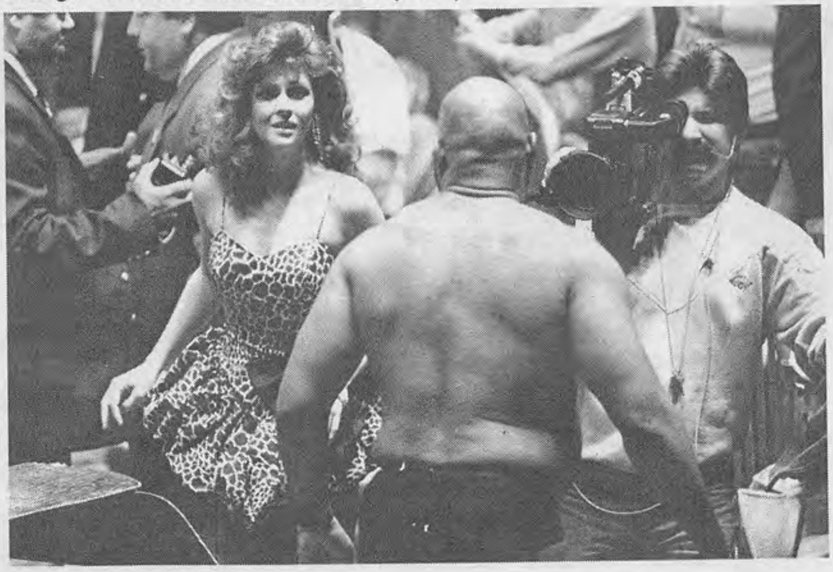
Eventually, beauty tamed the beast. One night in mid-1987, Savage actually held the ring ropes open for Elizabeth. A short time later, as Savage was suffering a brutal beating at the hands of The Honky Tonk Man and The Hart Foundation. Elizabeth ran for help and returned with Hulk Hogan. The Megapowers were born.

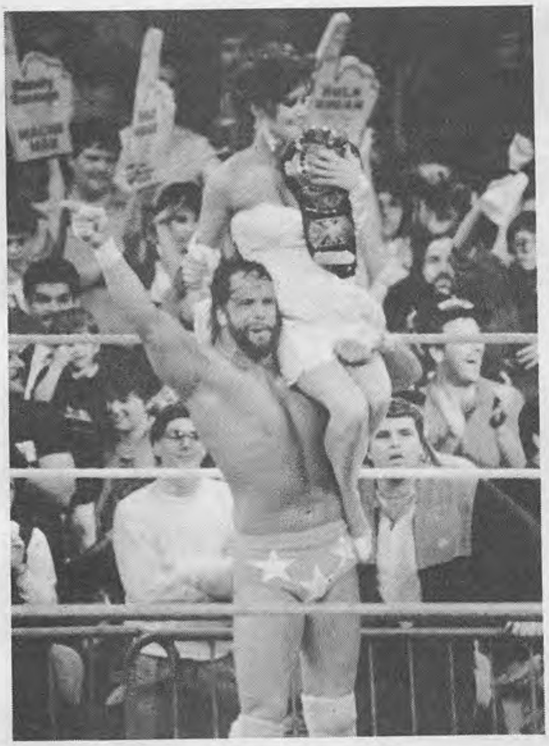
Together, Hogan, Savage, and Elizabeth were enormously popular and successful. At SummerSlam '88, Elizabeth partially disrobed, leading to the Megapowers' victory over Ted DiBiase and Andre the Giant. And while Elizabeth brought Hogan and Savage together, she also, unwittingly, tore them apart.

Savage grew jealous of Hogan's friendly relationship with Elizabeth. Finally, last February, in a match pitting Hogan and Savage against Akeem and Big Bossman, Savage cracked. When Elizabeth was knocked unconscious (Akeem threw Savage out of the ring and into her), Hogan came to her aid and carried her back to the dressing room. An incensed Savage accused Hogan of lusting after Elizabeth. Hogan and Savage came to blows, Savage knocked Elizabeth to the floor, and the Megapowers had exploded.

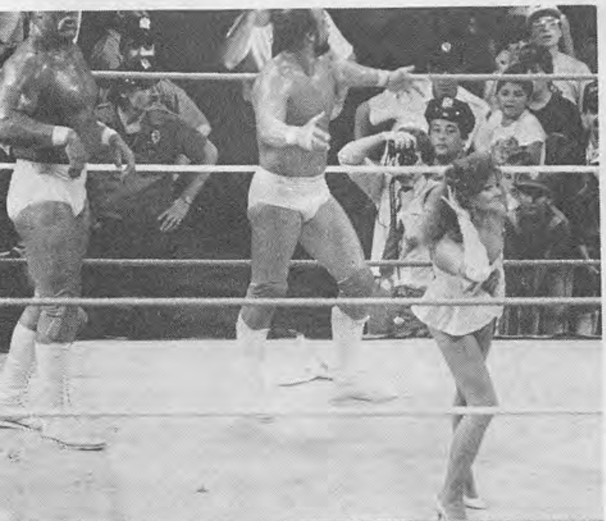
Shortly after WrestleMania V, Elizabeth announced her support for Hogan. Savage retaliated by naming Sherri Martel as his manager. Martel and Elizabeth have had several confrontations and, at press time, the two were scheduled to be in opposite corners when Hogan and Brutus Beefcake took on Savage and Zeus at SummerSlam '89. As Elizabeth's career starts a new phase, ***The Wrestler*** *is proud to review the highlights of five beautiful years.*

September 1987: Elizabeth tries to save Savage, being held down by Bret Hart, from being hit with The Honky Tonk Man's guitar (left). December 1988: The manager flees from Bad News Brown (below).



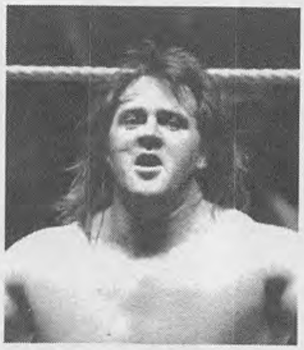


March 1988: Savage and Elizabeth celebrate "Macho Man's" World title victory at WrestleMania IV (left). January 1989: Elizabeth steps between Savage and Hulk Hogan (above). August 1988: Liz plays to the crowd at SummerSlam '88 (bottom left). June 1989: Hogan stops Savage from going after his ex-manager (below).



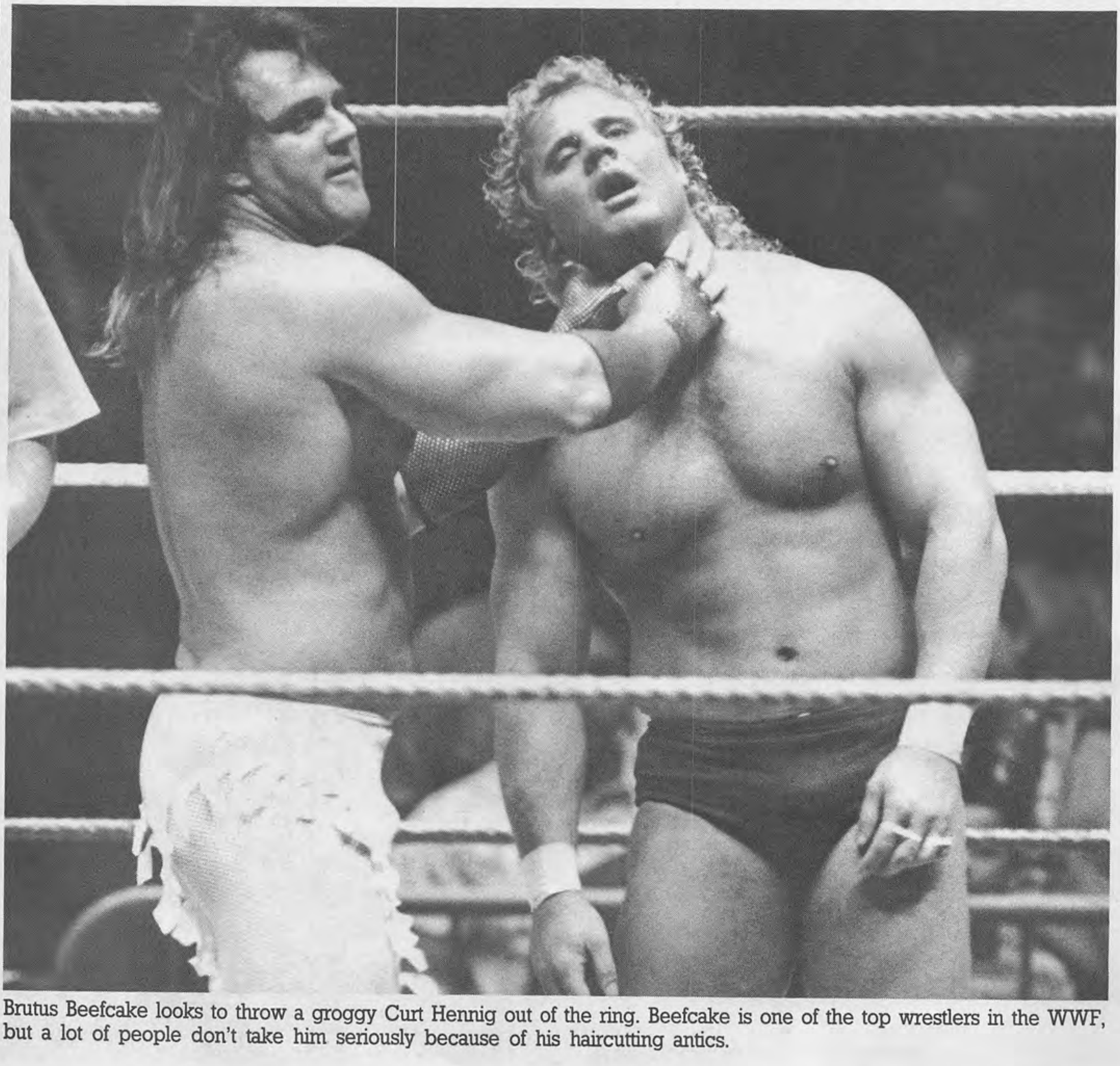
X-RAY

THE WRESTLER PANEL EXAMINES



BRUTUS BEEFCAKE

Each month THE WRESTLER'S panel of experts will offer their candid opinions of one of wrestling's stars. Whether an up-and- coming youngster or an established superstar in his own right, our panel will always be frank and honest without fear of reprisal



Brutus Beefcake looks to throw a groggy Curt Hennig out of the ring. Beefcake is one of the top wrestlers in the WWF, but a lot of people don't take him seriously because of his haircutting antics.

CAPT. LOU ALBANO

"I can remember back in 1984 when Beefcake made his WWF debut. He was just a kid back then, and he proved his inexperience by choosing that bum Johnny Valiant as his manager. But now, Beefcake's friends with men like Hulk Hogan, and he's fighting the men the fans hate. A lot of people thought he'd never make it—he was a little awkward in his early years—but now Beefcake's one of the biggest stars in the world. He's struttin' and cuttin' up a storm, daddy!"

Capt. Lou Albano, long known as "The Guiding Light," has guided 13 tag teams to an unmatched 16 WWF World tag team titles.

KILLER KOWALSKI

"Wasted time, wasted potential. Today, Beefcake is happy giving free haircuts to his defeated opponents, but only four years ago he had more important things in mind. He held the WWF World tag team title with Greg Valentine, and Valiant had his career on a fast track to success. Somehow, Beefcake lost track of what's *really* important. He's seems happy just living off the cheers of the fans, but he'll never be a champion again with that attitude."

Killer Kowalski, one of the most sadistic rule-breakers in the sport's history, runs a wrestling school in Reading, Massachussetts.

PROF. TORU TANAKA

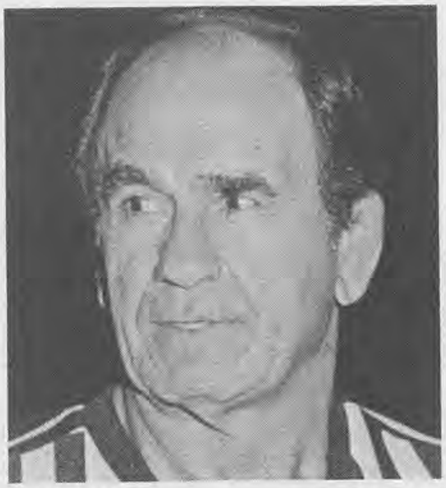
"A perfect example of what is wrong with American wrestling. If Beefcake ever brought shears into a Japanese ring, he would be suspended and never allowed into the Orient again. He cuts the hair of his opponents because he is attempting to make up for his shortcomings. His sleeperhold is a pale imitation of the Japanese sleeper. His tactics are slow and ineffective. Beefcake is all style and no substance. He is not a worthy contender."

Prof. Tanaka, a three-time co-holder of the WWF World tag team title with Mr. Fuji, is currently a successful actor.

LARRY HENNIG

"Beefcake's gotta be the luckiest guy in the sport today. After all, when he wrestled my boy 'Mr. Perfect' recently, he somehow got away with a draw. How'd he ever manage to do that? I'd be lying if I didn't admit that Beefcake has improved a lot over the past few years, but he still lacks the intestinal fortitude to be a champion. Who ever heard of a wrestler depending on haircuts to make a reputation? Beefcake's an idiot, plain and simple."

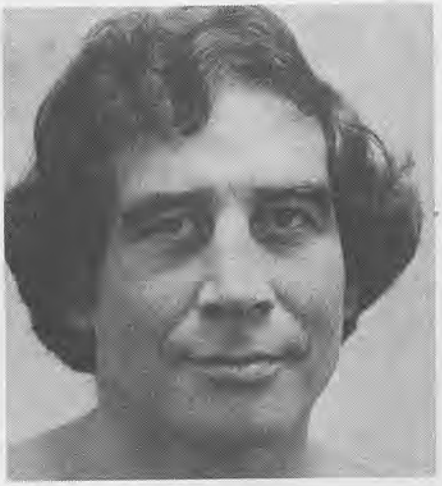
Larry "The Ax" Hennig is a four-time former AWA World tag team champion; he held three of those titles with Harley Race.



LOU THESZ

"It's really nice to see a young man improve to the extent that Beefcake has. Four years ago, he was as big and strong as he is now, but he would rely on kicking and punching his opponents to win. Now, he has a much more scientifically balanced attack. His flying knee is accurate and effective, and his sleeper is as good as anyone else in the sport. I'm not overly fond of his post-match barbering, but Beefcake really is quite a good wrestler."

Lou Thesz held the NWA World title six times during his fabulous 50-year career. Many consider him the greatest all-around wrestler in history.



JACK BRISCO

"Beefcake's a very nice fellow, and he may be one of the most popular men in the sport right now. He must be a pretty accomplished wrestler, considering that he's in the top 10 of the WWF. But I just can't abide those barbering antics of his. If he really wants to be respected by his peers, he'll give up the hair stylings and concentrate on winning a championship. Otherwise, he'll be forever remembered for his *hobby,* not his *talent.*"

Jack Brisco is a two-time former NWA World champion, and a three-time former NWA World tag team champion with brother Jerry.

IS MR. T THE VON ERICHS'

By Dave Rosenbaum

IT REALLY IS a small world. Four years ago, Kerry Von Erich was in Hollywood auditioning for the role of the Soviet boxer in *Rocky IV.* While Kerry was at the auditions, Sylvester Stallone introduced him to Mr. T, who had appeared in the movie, *Rocky III.*

As it turned out, Mr. T was familiar with Kerry because his mother (*Mrs.* T?) was a big fan of the Von Erich family. "He told me that his mother lives in Chicago and gets all of the World Class shows on cable," Kerry recalled. "After that, I started calling T's mother all the time and from that, T and I became good friends."

Such good friends that, in 1987, when Mike Von Erich was found dead, Mr. T flew to Denton, Texas, to lend comfort to the family. "We got very close," Kerry said. "T's the kind of man you can depend on. The role he played in *Rocky III* is so far from what he's really like."

Kerry Von Erich and Mr. T are good friends, but even Kerry didn't expect T to travel to Texas.

Rulebreakers in the World Class area have always targeted the Von Erichs for destruction, but now Kevin and Kerry have some help. He's big, he's mean, and you've seen him in the ring and on the movie screen. Watch out, World Class rulebreakers—you may soon have to answer to Mr. T!

Photos by Buddy Myers

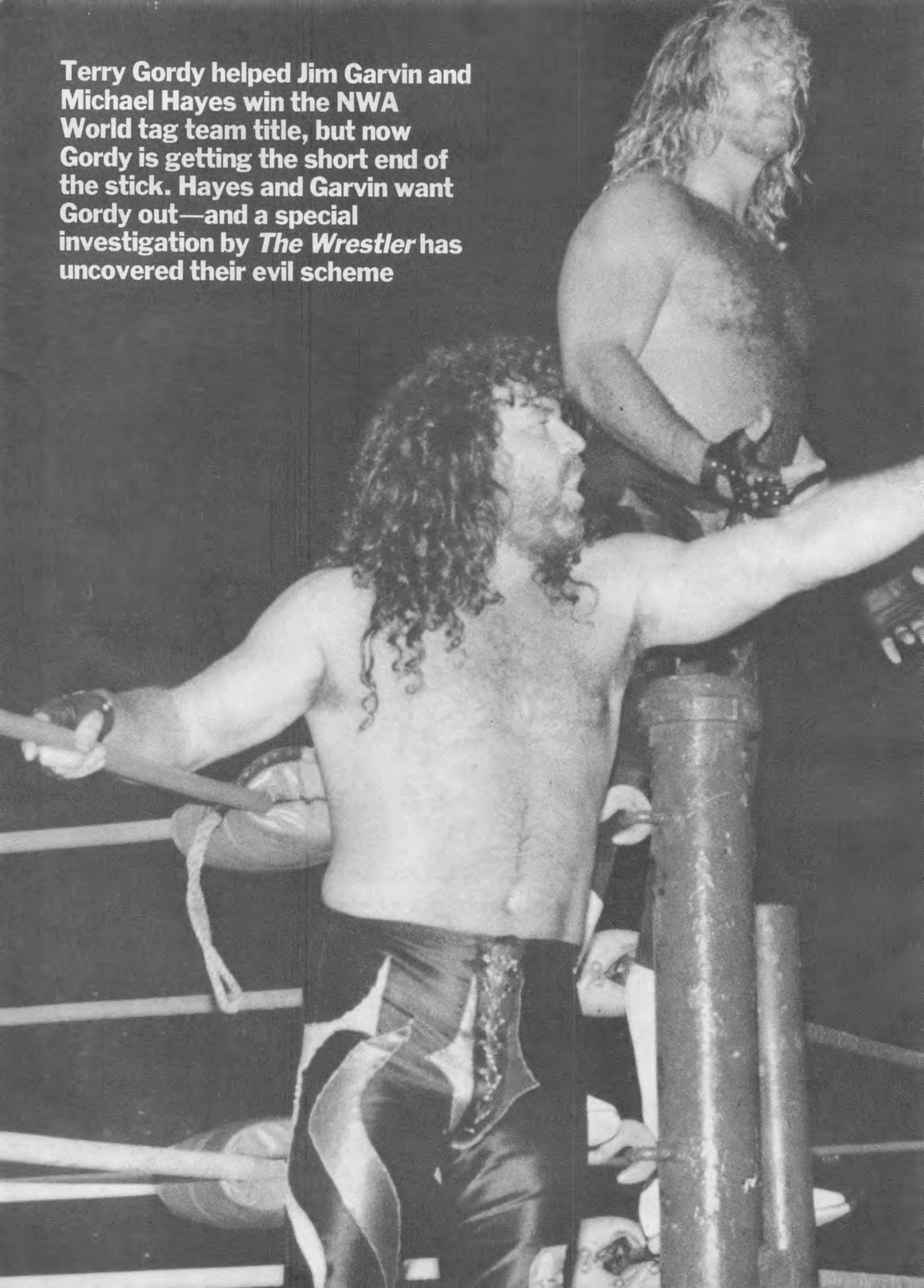
SECRET WEAPON?

Gary Young, representing Devastation Inc., challenges Kerry and T (above). T is at ringside for Kerry in his bout with Bam Bam Bigelow (left).

That, of course, has been proven over the years. Mr. T has always associated himself with charitable causes. Inside the ring, he's also always associated himself with the side of good. In 1985, he joined forces with Hulk Hogan; that eventually led to the main event of WrestleMania I. Two years ago, Mr. T showed up again in the WWF as an

(Continued on page 46)

Terry Gordy helped Jim Garvin and Michael Hayes win the NWA World tag team title, but now Gordy is getting the short end of the stick. Hayes and Garvin want Gordy out—and a special investigation by *The Wrestler* has uncovered their evil scheme



GARVIN & HAYES' DIABOLICAL PLOT TO DUMP TERRY GORDY!

By Andy Rodriguez

A FACT IS a stubborn thing, it is often said. Opinions may shift and change, but a fact is undeniable truth.

Consider this fact: On June 14, 1989, Jim Garvin and Michael Hayes defeated Stan Lane and Bobby Eaton to capture the NWA World tag team title in a tournament final in Fayetteville, North Carolina.

It is regrettable, both for wrestling historians *and* Terry Gordy, that most people have already forgotten *this* fact: In the first round of that tournament, Hayes and *Gordy* unseated tournament favorites The Road Warriors.

That was the most significant result of the entire tournament, yet it will pass into wrestling history largely unremembered and unmentioned.

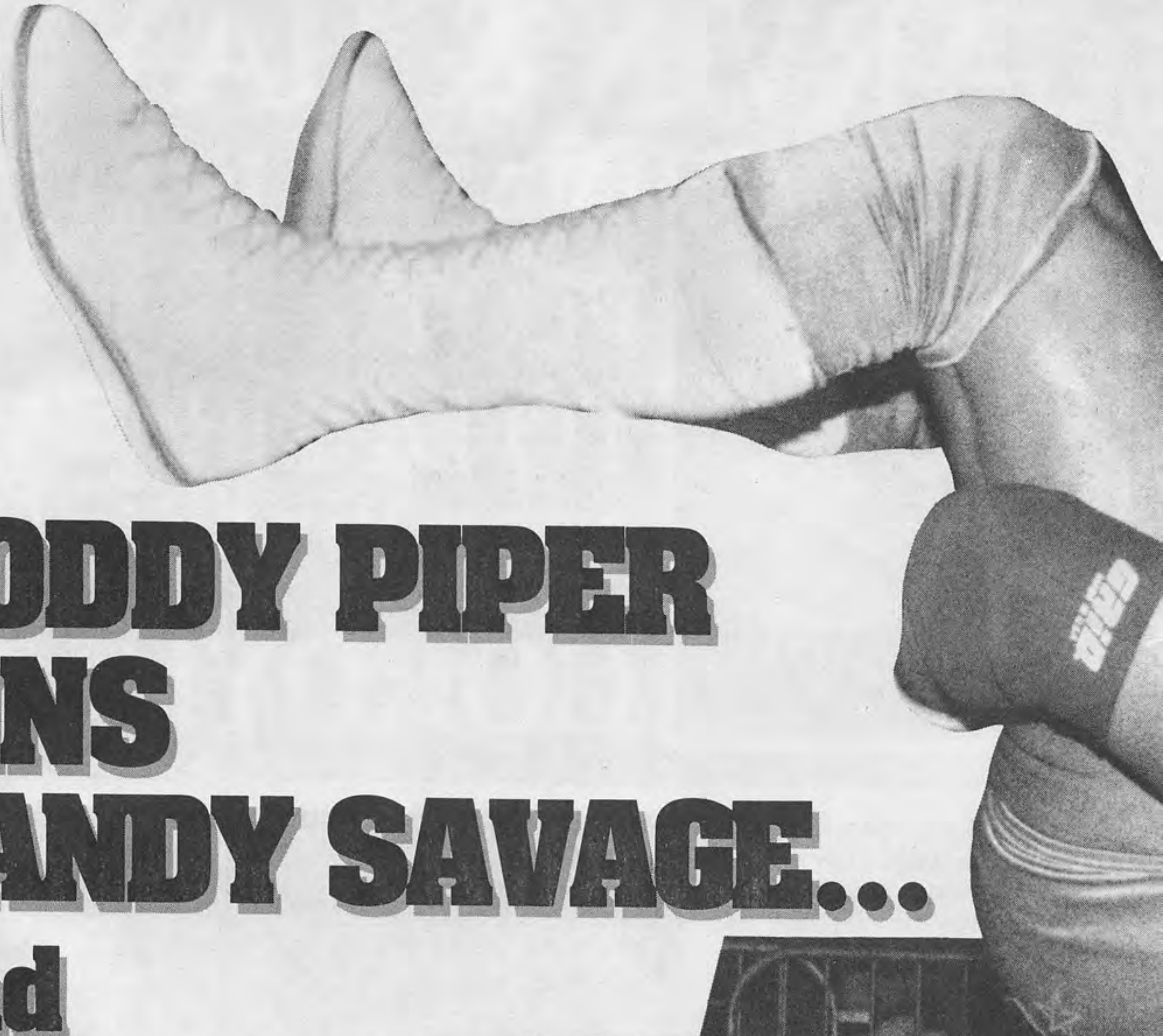
Of course, Hayes and Garvin don't mind it that way. The whole idea from the start was to use Gordy for their own purposes, then toss him aside when he wasn't needed anymore. Hayes knew that the only way people would recognize he and Garvin as The Fabulous Freebirds was if Gordy or Buddy Roberts was along for the ride. And since Roberts wasn't available, Gordy became the unsuspecting victim.

Michael Hayes and Jim Garvin double-team Steve Williams. The NWA World tag team champions wouldn't have gotten as far as they have if not for Terry Gordy, but for some reason they're trying to get rid of him.

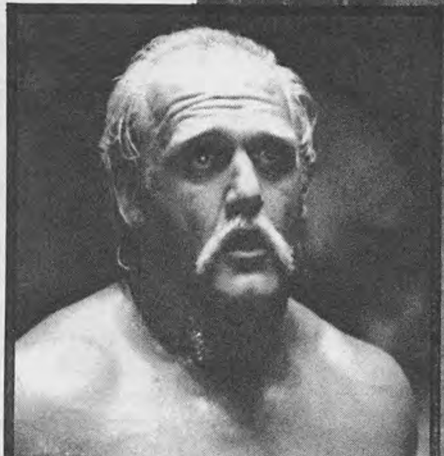
Those were the findings of a special investigation launched by *The Wrestler* into the strange Freebird triangle. Our reporting team uncovered phone records, secret conversations, and spoke at length with Roberts, formerly a prominent member of The Freebirds. We also discovered that Hayes didn't think he and Garvin could defeat The Road Warriors and, therefore, called in Gordy for help.

"Let's make this plain and simple: The Fabulous Freebirds are Michael Hayes, 'Bamm Bamm,' and myself," said Buddy Roberts, the only person who would speak on the record about this situation. "But everything's

(Continued on page 52)



RODDY PIPER PINS RANDY SAVAGE... And HULK HOGAN Is SCARED STIFF!



By Craig Peters

When "Rowdy" Roddy Piper returned to the ring last spring after a long layoff, nobody knew what he was capable of. But after scoring a shocking victory over former WWF World champion Randy Savage, Piper might be headed for a showdown with a man he calls friend: Hulk Hogan!

RODDY PIPER HAS been popular since the middle of 1986, which must be some kind of record. There was once a time when the "Rowdy Scot" couldn't go two days without committing some kind of dastardly deed that brought a hail of catcalls and boos down on his head. Now it's been over three years!

But how long can it last? Even his good actions—destroying the set of Adrian Adonis' "Flower Shop" and interfering for the good of fan favorites in several Pacific Northwest matches—are spiced with the flavor of Piper, the rulebreaker. The man just can't help himself!

That said, it's no wonder fans were curious as to which Piper they'd see when he returned to the WWF this past spring. It was, in fact, the *good* Piper who defeated Ted DiBiase in several matches on the West Coast. And once again, it was the good Piper who entered the ring to wrestle Randy Savage on June 30 in Montreal.

The good Piper left the ring, too, after scoring a shocking pinfall victory over the former WWF World champion, after "Sensational" Sherri Martel accidentally hit the "Macho Man." With that match, Piper stamped himself as a man who had completed his comeback and was ready to take on *any* competition.

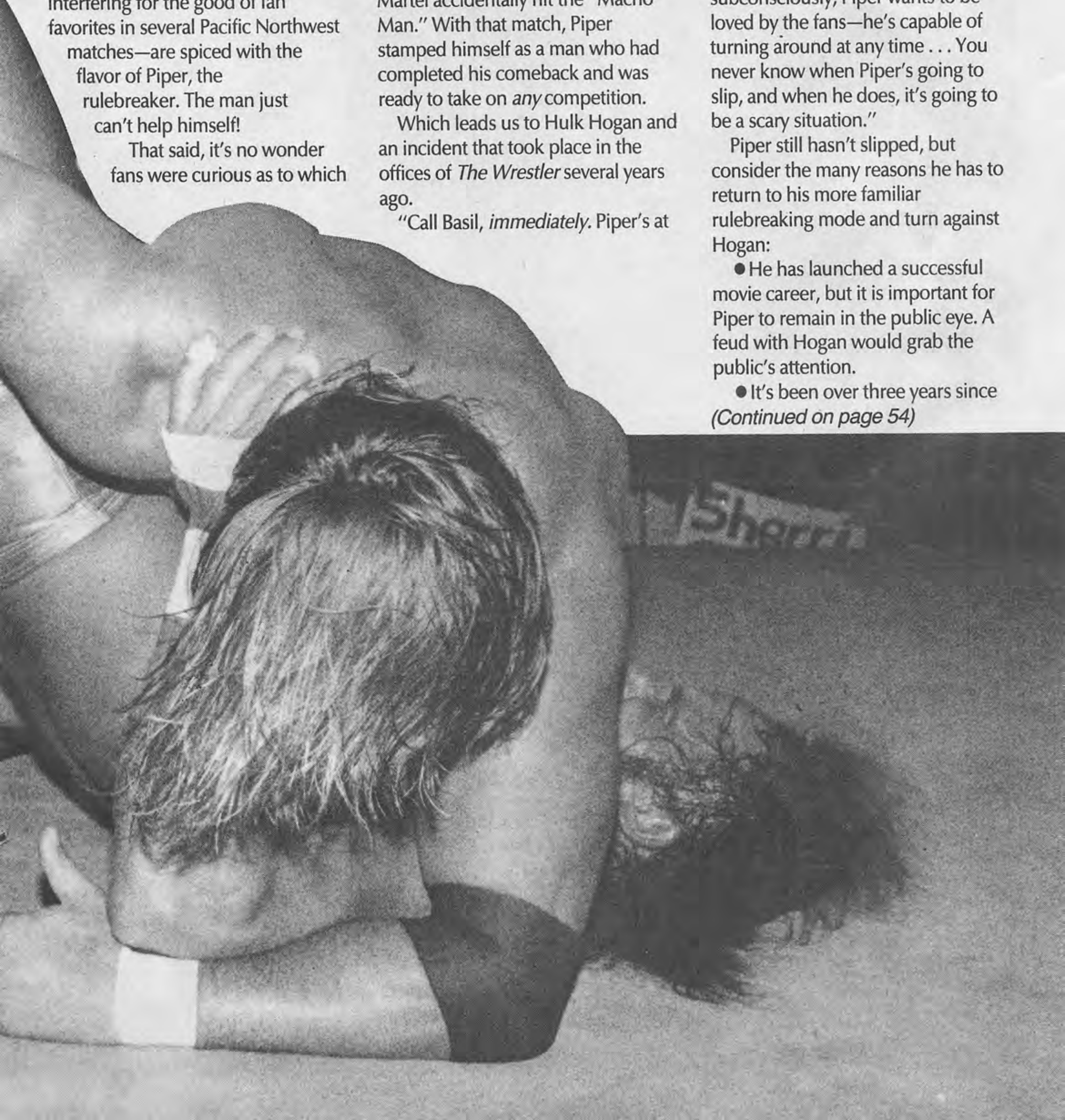
Which leads us to Hulk Hogan and an incident that took place in the offices of *The Wrestler* several years ago.

"Call Basil, *immediately.* Piper's at it again," former Editor-in-Chief Peter King screamed back in 1986 after he learned that Piper had become a fan favorite. The man he wanted was Dr. Sidney M. Basil who, a year earlier, had completed an internationally published psychoanalysis of Piper.

"[Piper] is a very dangerous man, and I would suggest that Hogan keep a very close eye on him," Dr. Basil concluded. "Even if Piper's change of heart is real—and remember, subconsciously, Piper wants to be loved by the fans—he's capable of turning around at any time . . . You never know when Piper's going to slip, and when he does, it's going to be a scary situation."

Piper still hasn't slipped, but consider the many reasons he has to return to his more familiar rulebreaking mode and turn against Hogan:

- He has launched a successful movie career, but it is important for Piper to remain in the public eye. A feud with Hogan would grab the public's attention.
- It's been over three years since *(Continued on page 54)*



EXCLUSIVE COVERAGE:

THE FLAIR-FUNK BASH SHOWDOWN!

By Bill Apter

SOMETHING ABOUT Ric Flair had changed during his 10 weeks on the sidelines. Prior to a big match, Flair is usually full of confidence, allowing his ego to feed his adrenaline. But that confidence was not to be seen on July 23 at the Baltimore Arena.

"Are you ready?" a reporter called out.

"I'm 120 percent," Flair, his voice low-pitched, replied unconvincingly.

"Why didn't you ask for a warmup match to get ready for Funk?" another reporter asked.

"Because I didn't think I needed one," Flair answered unforcefully. "We'll see if I did in a little while."

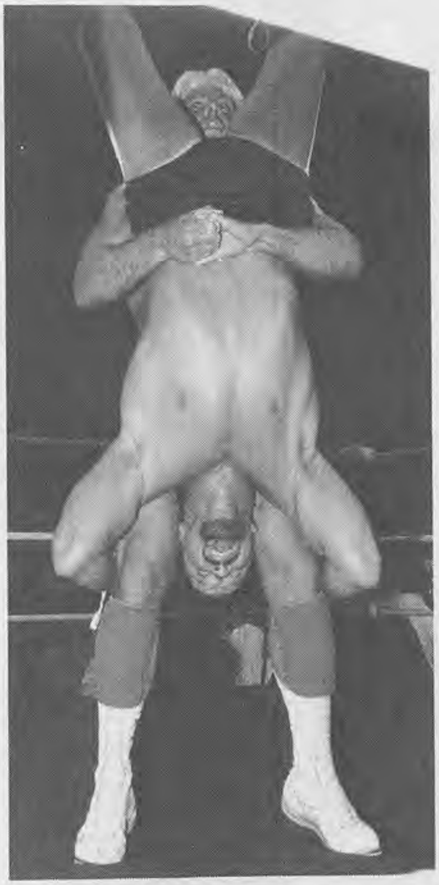
And so it went. Not once did Flair guarantee victory or talk about his place as the greatest NWA World champion of all-time. He was cold, analytical, and unemotional. His eyes showed a quality usually foreign to Flair: fear.

But something changed when Flair emerged from the dressing room and made his first appearance before the Arena crowd. Suddenly, a huge cheer filled the building. That in itself was unusual, because Flair has been one of the most hated men in the sport for years.

Then, as six stunningly dressed women surrounded Flair, he smiled widely and started his walk down the aisle, letting loose with a loud *Whooo!* As the cheers of the crowd grew, Flair's eyes gained their usual confidence. The champ was back.

Sixteen minutes and 25 seconds later, the NWA World title belt was back around Flair's waist, too, after a magnificent but brutal victory over Funk.

"This may have been the most important win of my life," Flair said. "I've beaten better wrestlers before, and certainly Rick Steamboat has it all over Funk, but I was testing myself, too. I knew that my neck and back were very susceptible to injury, and I knew that Funk's the kind of guy that'll try to end a man's career. All these things were on my mind before the match. But once I got out to the ring and heard the fans, the adrenaline just started flowing. I knew Funk couldn't beat me."



Ric Flair has Terry Funk at his mercy out on the arena floor (opposite page). The NWA World champion piledrives Funk (above) and backflips him (below). This bout was one of the most eagerly anticipated contests in years.

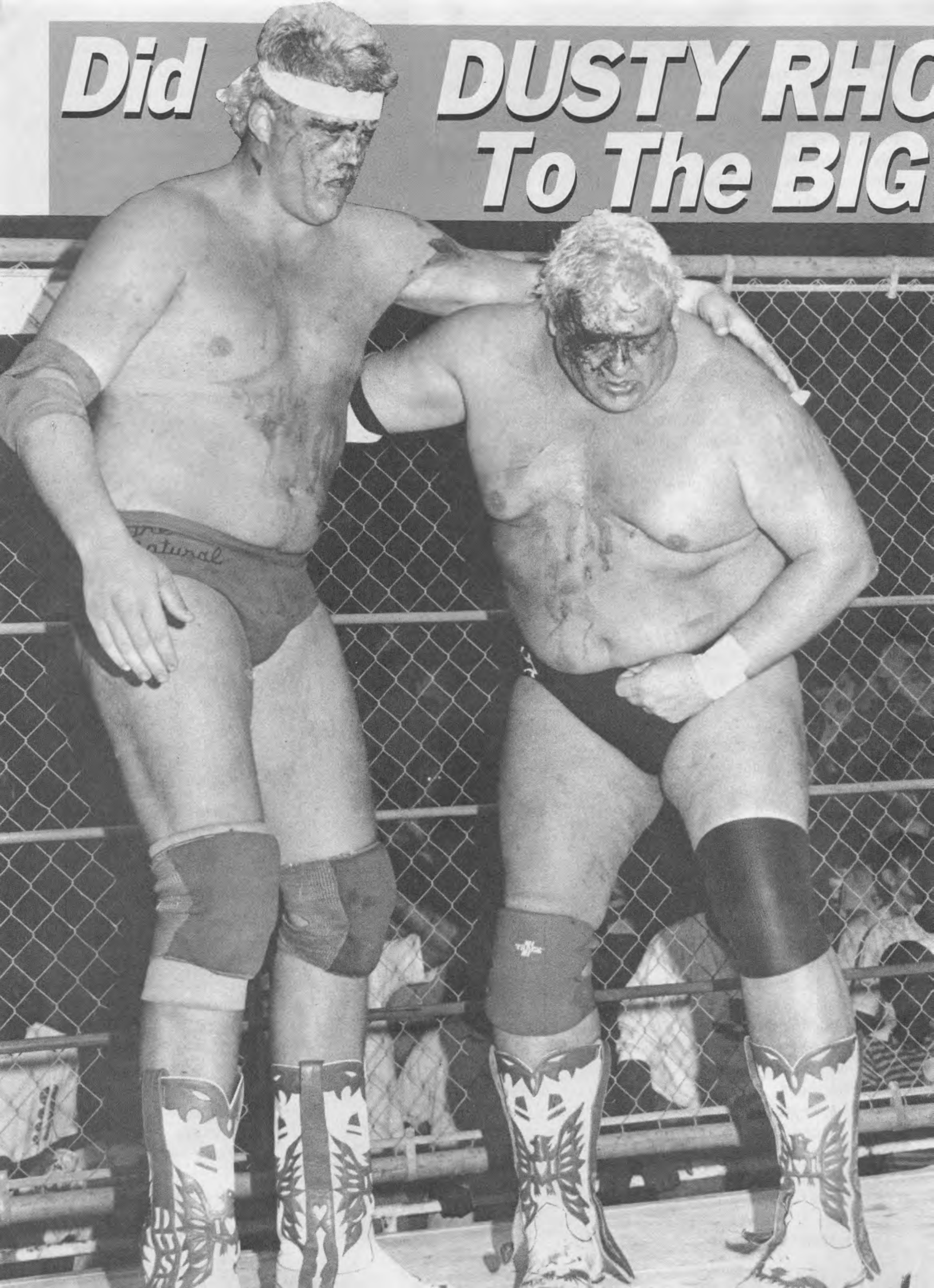
Never, however, was Flair allowed to play his own game in a match that was anything but scientific. It was a Funk-style brawl all the way, and Flair did not control the pace. Funk, who did everything he planned to do, was still left bloody and bruised—and wondering how to regain the glory of December 1975 in Miami, when he defeated Jack Brisco for his first and only NWA World title.

Six-time NWA World champion Ric Flair is one of the greatest wrestlers in history. Terry Funk is a former NWA champ trying to regain past glory. When they clashed on July 23 in Baltimore, the battle was everything everybody had hoped it would be . . . and more!

Flair, a six-time NWA World champ, had what the record books would record as just another title defense. In Flair's personal book, however, this one would stand out among the rest.

After a back-and-forth struggle, Flair had Funk slumped in the corner, ready to be beaten. But the champ, fighting exhaustion *(Continued on page 56)*

Did DUSTY RHO
To The BIG



DES Sacrifice His Son STEEL MAN?

Photos by Duane Long

Dusty Rhodes and Big Steel Man engaged in one of the most violent feuds seen in Florida in years. But when Dusty left the Sunshine State for the WWF, it meant inexperienced Dustin Rhodes had to face 407-pound Steel Man—and a potential crippling for life!—on his own

By Bob Smith

"REVENGE!" SCREAMED Big Steel Man as he pounded his meaty fist into the wooden desk top of Florida Championship Wrestling President Randy Roberts. "I want Dusty Rhodes again! It's his fault I'm not champion anymore! I'm the man who's gonna retire that overrated old codger for good!"

Steel Man was livid. He had warred with Dusty Rhodes throughout Florida for months, and believed he had won the PWF title from the veteran superstar in a steel cage match. But when Roberts held up the belt several days later, Steel Man lusted for a chance to once again get his hands on Rhodes. Unfortunately for him, the "American Dream" was long gone by that time.

No rematches. No title bouts. Only the memory of his matches against Rhodes remained, and they burned into Steel Man's soul.

"It's just like Rhodes to take off when the action gets too hot for him," crowed Sir Oliver Humperdink, Steel Man's manager. "I always knew he was a coward, but I never dreamed he'd be so blatant about it."

In actuality, Rhodes was perturbed over Steel Man's tactics in the title bout. Videotape replays of the match proved that Steel Man used a towel soaked in chloroform to kayo Rhodes for the pin. When officials refused to overturn the decision, a disgusted Rhodes decided to leave the area and agree to a lucrative contract offer he had received from the WWF.

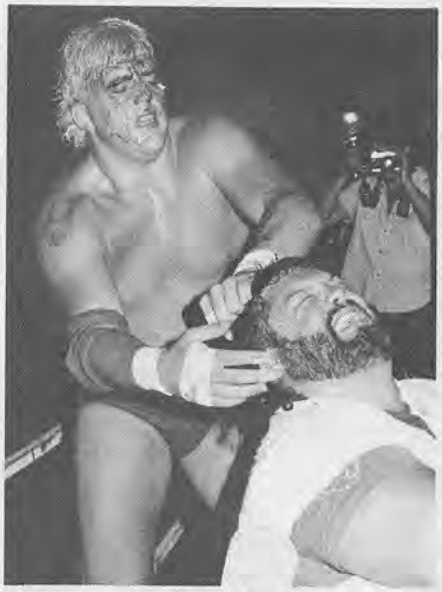
Big Steel Man chinlocks Dusty Rhodes. Steel Man was denied his chance for revenge on Dusty when the "American Dream" left Florida for the WWF. So the 400-pounder decided that if he couldn't get Dusty, he'd go after his son, Dustin.

In the weeks that followed Rhodes' departure, Steel Man wrestled in an even more barbaric fashion than ever before. When a concerned Roberts called him into his office to find out why he had become so brutal, one name came out of his mouth: *Dustin* Rhodes.

"So big daddy doesn't have the guts to take care of unfinished business, eh?" laughed the massive Steel Man. "That's fine. If I can't have *him,* I want

a piece of his snot-faced kid right away. What better way to get back at Dusty than to crush his no-talent offspring? I want a match and I want it *now.* I'll do to Dustin what I would've done to his lousy old man."

When Roberts contacted Dustin and informed him of Steel Man's comments, the second-generation star was incensed.



Dustin recovers from a beating and gives Steel Man a hairpull.

"*Nobody* insults my father and gets away with it! My dad was offered a fantastic opportunity to go back to the WWF. When he left, it had nothing to do with Steel Man whatsoever. Hey, when my father won the title in the first place, who did he defeat? Steel Man, that's who! I know that overstuffed construction worker has no credibility, but that doesn't mean I can't try to shut his mouth."

Dustin was more than anxious to lock up with Steel Man, but many friends of the Rhodes family believed that it was too early in Dustin's career to have him wrestle such a giant. In fact, some thought that Dusty had actually sacrificed his son to the rulebreaker!

"Hey, I'd be the last guy to criticize a friend," said Mike Graham, a Florida mainstay and lifelong friend of Dusty Rhodes. "But when big Dust left the area, it left Dustin to fend for himself against one of the biggest wrestlers I've ever seen. Look at the facts. Steel Man weighs a whopping 407 pounds. Dustin

The massive Steel Man aims Dustin's head at the timekeeper's table.

is a big guy at a little over 6'4" and 254 pounds, but he's been a pro for less than a year. Frankly, I don't see how he could possibly win a matchup like that—and he could get hurt very, very badly. Steel is out for revenge—and blood."

When Dustin wrestled Steel Man, many of Graham's fears were confirmed. The huge rulebreaker tore at Dustin with abandon, using his 153-pound weight advantage to smother his opponent at every opportunity. Dustin managed to battle back valiantly, and the match soon turned into a bloodbath. Both men brawled all the way back to the dressing room, but before

Dustin's blows open up a cut on Steel Man's forehead.

they could get inside Dustin picked up a garbage can and brought it down hard over Steel Man's head.

"It's been a long time since I saw a match that violent," said Steve Keirn. "Dustin's trying to gain revenge for his dad, and that's admirable. But I have to question Dusty's reasoning in allowing his son to get involved in this kind of a match so early in his career. Everyone knows that Dustin has a world of promise, but he'll never get to fulfill it if he keeps putting his career on the line like that."

Dustin was aware of all the negative feelings about his match, but he insisted that he was more than ready for the confrontation with his huge foe.

"It seems like people still take me too lightly," said the 19-year-old rookie. "Folks forget that I was trained by the greatest legend this sport has ever seen. You know, a couple days before the match, I called my father and told him how badly I wanted at Steel Man. Dad told me that Steel may be one of the biggest opponents I'll ever face, but that his courage doesn't come close to his size. He wasn't any tougher than any other opponent I've ever met—and I'd love to get a chance to get my mitts on him again, too."

Unfortunately for Dustin, Steel Man turned the tables on him. When Dustin contacted Roberts about obtaining a rematch, he was told that *Steel Man* had left the area—and that he was on his way to the WWF!

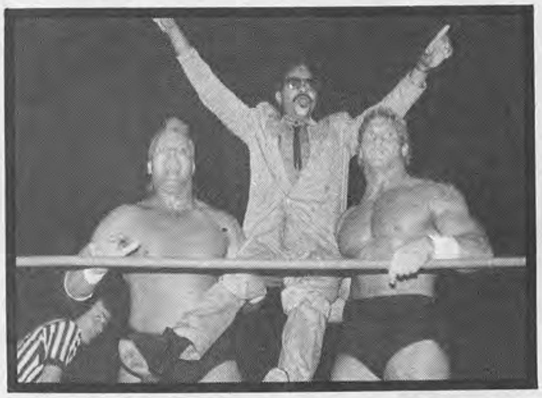
"Mashing the little punk just wasn't the same as throttling his father," claimed Steel Man before leaving Florida. "Even though I gave Dustin a well-deserved pasting, it's his dad I *really* want. This'll never be over till I prove that the legend of Dusty Rhodes is dead and buried."

Dusty and Steel Man waged one of the most violent wars in the history of Florida. Now both men are in the WWF, and it seems a certainty that their paths will cross before long. But now Dustin wants another piece of Steel as badly—or worse!—than his father ever did.

Perhaps the Rhodes invasion of the WWF is only *half* over. □

THIS MONTH IN...

SPORTS REVIEW Wrestling



Can **TEDDY LONG** keep **THE SKYSCRAPERS** from tumbling?

A special section featuring **HULK HOGAN'S** toughest matches ever!

PLUS . . .

Sports Review Interview with **TERRY FUNK** . . . The winner of **STING'S** "paint my face" contest revealed . . . The truth behind **JIMMY SNUKA'S** feud with **HONKY TONK MAN** . . . Eddie Ellner's "Straight Talk" and "Point/Counterpoint"

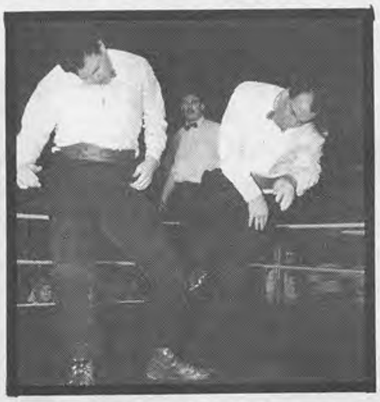
All this and much more . . .
in the November 1989 issue of
Sports Review Wrestling

ON SALE SEPTEMBER 19

Inside Wrestling

VICTORY SPORTS SERIES

Imagine this face mangled! Please, **ELIZABETH**, don't wrestle **SENSATIONAL SHERRI**!



PAUL E. DANGEROUSLY vs **JIM CORNETTE**: Dressed to kill!

PLUS . . .

JAKE ROBERTS faces a jail term after being convicted of battery . . . An exclusive "Hotseat" interview with **LEX LUGER** . . . Why is **TERRY FUNK** gunning for **STING**? . . . **MIL MASCARAS**: "**AL PEREZ** will pay for betraying me!"

All this and much more . . .
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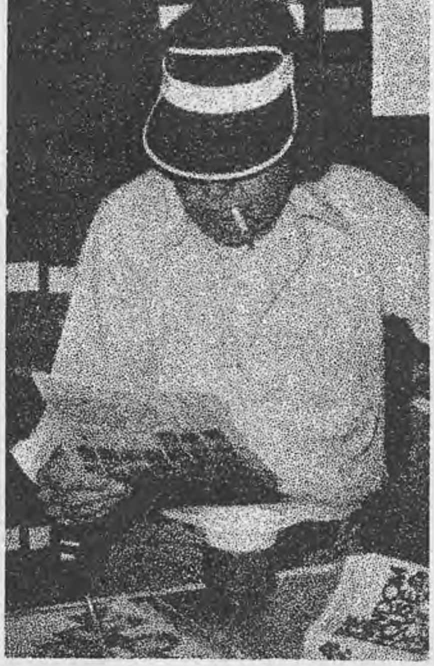
Inside Wrestling

ON SALE NOW

MATT BROCK'S



LOOKING BACK

OCTOBER 1982
JIMMY SNUKA vs. RAY STEVENS

AH, NOSTALGIA. As you get older, it only gets worse.

For me, these past weeks have been consumed with lust for what I can only recall as the good old days. If you read my columns in *Inside Wrestling* and *Pro Wrestling Illustrated,* you probably already know that some yuppie doctors have decided that my diet hasn't been exactly what it should be—too much fat, they say, too high a cholesterol count, they say. So I've been gagging my way through oat-bran-muffin breakfasts when my soul is crying for a nice, hearty platter of sausage and eggs.

The saddest part of all this is that the medics tell me that if I go back to my usual diet, I might never get to return to the lifestyle I've grown so accustomed to: traveling the country covering wrestling. That's something I could never do without, even though I usually long for the "old days" of the squared circle.

WWF fans, however, don't have to long for the stars from the early part of the '80s to return. For some reason, they're coming back in droves. In the past few months, Roddy Piper, Dusty Rhodes, and Barry Windham have surprised just about everybody by returning to a federation against which they all had made strong comments.

In 1982, Ray Stevens and Lou Albano attacked Jimmy Snuka after Snuka had discovered that his contract with Albano was not legally binding. Soon afterward, Snuka became one of the most popular men in the WWF.

In Jimmy Snuka's case, however, nobody ever expected him to come back. After all, when Vince McMahon called Snuka "a basket case" in an interview with Larry King back in 1986 (published in the Winter edition of *Wrestling 86* magazine), most assumed it would end Snuka's association with the WWF for life.

That hasn't been the case. The "Superfly" is back in the federation, and he's been involved in a war with Honky Tonk Man, one that he's been winning handily. It seems that Snuka can't go more than a few weeks with-

out becoming locked in some sort of a nasty feud, which makes me recall the one that changed Snuka into a fan favorite forever.

When Snuka first entered the WWF back in 1982, he was managed by Capt. Lou Albano, who then was undoubtedly the most evil man in the whole sport. Albano had managed to turn Snuka into a brutal rulebreaker, but he also was ripping his wrestler off royally. For some reason, Snuka's match payments simply stopped coming. It seemed that right from the beginning, Albano was keeping about 75 percent of the money that rightfully should have been Snuka's.

At that time, Buddy Rogers, a former manager of Snuka, was hosting "Rogers' Corner," an interview segment during WWF TV shows. Rogers found out exactly what Albano was doing to Snuka.

During an October television taping in Allentown, Pennsylvania, Snuka was the Rogers' guest. Rogers told Snuka that he had contacted his lawyer, and had found out that Snuka's

Stevens piledrives his former partner Snuka on the concrete floor. In 1980, Snuka and Stevens were tag team champs in the NWA.

contract with Albano was full of illegalities. That made the contract not legally binding; from that moment on Snuka was a free man.

Well, like they say, timing is everything. Snuka's very next match pitted him against Ray Stevens, also a protege of Albano's—and a teammate of Snuka's when they held the NWA World tag team title in 1980. Snuka felt nervous walking toward the ring and seeing his former manager and partner anxiously awaiting his presence. He sensed that something was about to go wrong.

Snuka's instincts were right. Before he had a chance to remove his ring robe, Snuka was attacked by Stevens and Albano. Albano ripped the shell necklace from around Snuka's neck, wrapped it around his fist, and bloodied Snuka—but the worst was yet to come. After he succeeded in rendering Snuka almost unconscious, Stevens piledrived Snuka twice on the concrete floor outside the ring.

His neck in a brace, Snuka leaves the arena. Snuka's pride sped his recovery.

Buddy Rogers (right) and ring attendants come to Snuka's aid following the attack. After recovering from his injuries, Snuka got revenge on both Stevens and Albano in the ring.

This incident was so brutal that it instantly made Snuka one of the most popular wrestlers. After recovering from his neck injuries, "Superfly" returned to gain revenge on both Stevens and Albano in singles matches, especially one where Snuka absolutely ripped Albano apart at Madison Square Garden. It was sweet revenge for both Snuka and the fans, and it started a love affair that continues to this day.

Unfortunately for me, my love affair with juicy meats and tasty sugars hasn't subsided, either. I guess if I try hard enough, I'll learn that a life filled with steak and fried potatoes won't keep a person alive for very long.

I just hope I can develop a taste for broccoli and oat bran. □

(Continued from page 7)

thrown at them for over a year, but I'll have to draw the line there.

I've seen Jay Strongbow and Sonny King, Prof. Tanaka and Mr. Fuji, Haystacks Calhoun and Tony Garea, and Garea and Dean Ho (my favorites), but the nod for best tag team in WWF/WWWF history has to go unchallenged to Jimmy and Johnny Valiant.

Johnny and Jimmy Valiant, managed by Capt. Lou Albano, were, in Scott Carlson's view, the best tag team in WWF history.

The brothers were unstoppable: strong, quick, snart, and excessively tough. The Valiants turned back challengers like: Haystacks and Larry Zbyszko, Garea and Ho, Chief Jay Strongbow and Spiros Arion, Strongbow and Bruno Sammartino, and so many more.

They were excitement personified and take the number-one spot in my opinion!

SCOTT CARLSON
Fullerton, CA

SKY'S THE LIMIT

I hate Teddy Long. I despise him. But I give him credit for signing the most awesome team in the NWA, Dan Spivey and Sid Vicious—The Skyscrapers. This team combines power and great agility. They will demolish every team in the NWA and, before long, will be NWA World tag team champions.

CHAD DYE
Troy, OH

BRUTUS BEEF JERKEY

As I look through the ratings page and my eyes wander to the Most Popular and Most Hated section, I find myself very confused.

At the number-five spot in Most Popular [in your September issue], I see a man who has very little talent and even less of a desire to improve on his feeble skills. After this man puts his opponent away with the one hold he does know well, he shows what a good sport he is by giving his unconscious foe a crude haircut.

We all know I'm talking about Brutus Beefcake.

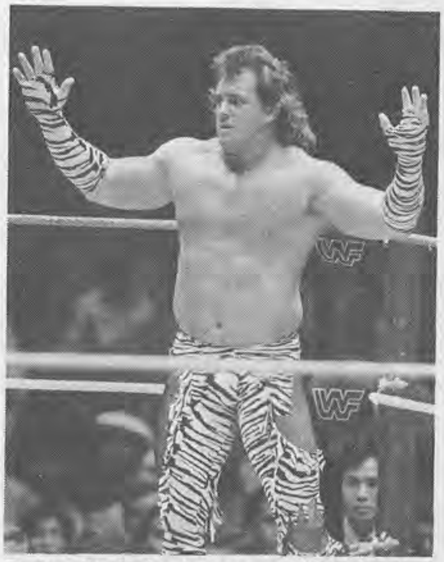
Now this guy has the gall to complain when it happens to him! What a crybaby! Beefcake, you got what you deserved, so shut your big mouth and take it like a man.

How can the fans like this jerk?

DAVE WILSON
Cliffside Park, NJ

GOOD CHOICE, RANDY

When Randy "Macho Man" Savage picked "Sensational" Sherri Martel as his manager, it was the smartest decision of his career. It doesn't take much to get Sherri mad. Her beautiful temper is more explosive than most male wrestlers. In fact, Sherri possesses a streak of viciousness that is not matched by anyone. Getting the "Sensational One" into an ungovernable rage is a cardinal sin, and both Hulk Hogan and Brutus "The Barber" Beefcake have already felt her fiery wrath.



Brutus Beefcake is one wrestler who has felt Sherri Martel's wrath. Reader Edward Fudal thinks her anger is an asset.

Sherri's wonderful temper is a fantastic asset to anyone who stays on her good side. With Martel in his corner, Savage will soon be WWF World champion again.

The only thing Randy has to worry about is Sherri's inability to control her own impatience if Savage doesn't win the title quickly enough to please her.

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WIN, LOSE, OR DRAW

(Continued from page 10)

Davey Boy Smith and Dynamite Kid are natives of England, but achieved worldwide fame only after they came to North America. British wrestling does not receive wide recognition, but its fans say an event like Starrcade would solve that problem.

mean, they're from England, but it seems like the big money is to be made in America."

"We'd like to see the big stars from your WWF and NWA wrestle here," said another. "If we're lucky, we get a tape of one of the big shows, but there's nothing like seeing it live. Two years ago I was in America and I got to see a lot of matches. I saw Hulk Hogan, Ric Flair, all your big stars. I'd like to see them wrestle here even better. They could give our British stars a few lessons."

Someone else even asked when WrestleMania or Starrcade was coming to England. Since neither federation is running any regular cards there, it's too early to talk about supercards there. However, if one of the big cards *were* held there, it would probably draw well simply because of the curiosity factor. Football started to become popular in England when the NFL began playing exhibition games in London.

"WrestleMania would fill up Wembley Stadium," one fan asserted. "There are plenty of us here still interested in the sport. They can't ignore us much longer. Someday, Davey Boy, Dynamite, and the rest will have to come back here to prove themselves. For now, though, we can just dream."

Wrestling still thrives in England, but competition from the American-based promotions might make it as popular there as the other ring sport: boxing. The Mike Tyson-Carl Williams heavyweight title bout was televised live at 3 a.m., and Tyson victim Frank Bruno is still a big celebrity there.

In a country where badminton is treated as a serious sport, there's certainly plenty of room for wrestling. □

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MR. T & VON ERICHS

(Continued from page 31)

As Gen. Skandor Akbar watches, Mr. T exhorts Kerry to get back in the ring and avoid being counted out (above). Kerry slaps the famous Von Erich claw on Bigelow (below).

enforcer/referee to make sure that the fan favorites weren't cheated.

But that was the last we saw of Mr. T in wrestling until July 15, 1989, at The Sportatorium in Dallas. Without any advance warning, there he was again—this time, in the corner of Kerry Von Erich, lending moral support as Kerry took on the dangerous Bam Bam Bigelow.

He provided some important match support, too. The action spilled out of the ring and Kerry and Bigelow battled on the arena floor. The referee started the count, but neither Kerry nor Bigelow heard him. Just before the referee reached the end of his 10-count, Mr. T screamed out to Kerry, "Get in the ring! He's counting 10!" Kerry quickly regained his senses and got back into the ring just in time to pick up the count-out victory.

"He had a chance to win, and I wanted to help him," Mr. T said. "That fool Bigelow didn't care if he was counted out or not, as long as Kerry was, too, but I wasn't gonna let that happen. No reason why Kerry should lose just because that Bigelow's a damn fool."

Since then, however, Mr. T has been absent from the World Class scene. "He was just around for that one night," Kerry explained. "He was in the area and I was wrestling, so I invited him to be in my corner. I'll tell ya, I'm glad he was there. I didn't feel like losing to Bigelow, especially on something like a countout."

The message, however, has already been clearly stated: From now on, when the Von Erichs are in need, Mr. T could be there to help. World Class and CWA rulebreakers are taking a calculated risk when they deal with Kerry or Kevin Von Erich. They're betting that Mr. T won't be following right behind.

This figures to make the Von Erichs' war with Gen. Skandor Akbar's army in Texas and Harold T. Harris' stable of sickos in Memphis even more interesting. Harris, Brickhouse Brown, and Iceman Parsons have formed a devastating team in the CWA. Akbar, Gary Young, Cactus Jack, and Al Perez are undoubtedly the most dangerous cooperative in World Class. And, of course, there's Jimmy Jack Funk, who insists that his family, not the Von Erichs, is the greatest in wrestling history.

It's a claim to which Mr. T takes exception.

"Just ask my mother," Mr. T said. "There never been any family greater than the Von Erichs, except the T's, of course, and that's why I'll be right behind them. Kerry, Kevin, Fritz, Doris, Chris—that's one heckuva family, and they've

got my backing all the way. That fool Funk better watch what he saying."

The value of Mr. T as a secret weapon, however, remains in doubt. Although he is a huge, muscular man, his power in the ring is nowhere near what it was purported to be in *Rocky III.* That was proven in his forays into WWF rings, where he was clearly outclassed by his more experienced competitors. In his infamous boxing match against Roddy Piper at WrestleMania II, his fistic skills and stamina proved laughable. Can he really help the Von Erichs?

"No doubt," Kevin Von Erich said. "I'm not saying he's gonna be with us again, but anytime you have a man of Mr. T's size in your corner, even for only moral support, you've got something going for you. Mr. T is one of those men that just gives off energy. He's a positive force anywhere he goes."

Nevertheless, it wouldn't come as a great surprise if we never saw Mr. T near a World Class ring again. Remember—his appearance with Kerry was his first ever in Dallas. Prior to that, he had only wrestled, boxed, refereed, and enforced in WWF rings. And, according to Kerry, he was only passing through Dallas.

"The reason Mr. T might return is because, every once in a while, that wrestling bug takes over," said a close friend of Mr. T's. "He got the bug when he first met Hogan on the *Rocky III* set. He's able to overcome it once in a while, but the truth is that Mr. T has this inner desire to wrestle. It's something he loves doing."

So, when you combine Mr. T's two loves—the love of the ring and the love of the Von Erich family—it's easy to imagine where he might be spending his time over the next few months.

Before long, the Von Erich's secret weapon won't be too secret. □

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FALL 1984/Stories include: Hogan, David Von Erich, Flair-Brody, Blanchard, Rude, Valiant.

WINTER 1984/Stories include: Kerry Von Erich, Martel-Bockwinkel, Piper, Flair-Steamboat, Freebirds.

SPRING 1985/Stories include: Warriors, Hogan, Albano, Rhodes, Sullivan, Backlund, WWF vs. NWA.

SUMMER 1985/Stories include: Valentine, Windham & Rotundo, Warriors, Flair-Race, Nikita, Adams.

FALL 1985/Stories include: Von Erichs, Warriors, Hogan-Volkoff, Freebirds, Magnum, Zbyszko, Garvin.

WINTER 1985/Stories include: Orndorff, Warriors, Brody, Shultz, Duggan, Brody, Steele, Piper.

SPRING 1986/Stories include: R&R Express, Warriors, Hogan, Santana, Rude, Williams, Cornette, Flair.

SUMMER 1986/Stories include: Warriors-Russians, Savage-Hogan, Kevin Von Erich, Bulldogs, Crockett.

FALL 1986/Stories include: R&R Express, Luger, Savage, Bulldogs, Hansen, Rude, Williams.

WINTER 1986/Stories include: Supercards, Hogan, Horsemen, Snuka, Von Erich, Rude, Cornette.

SPRING 1987/Stories include: Bigelow, Flair, Hogan, Luger, Race, Windham, Hyatt, DeBeers, Snuka.

SUMMER 1987/Stories include: Windham, Elizabeth, Superpowers, Albano, Von Erich, Williams.

FALL 1987/Stories include: Midnights, Flair, Steamboat-Savage, Luger, Piper, Hogan-Andre, Parsons.

WINTER 1987/Stories include: Luger-Nikita, Express, Hart, Hogan, Hyatt, Lawler, Rotundo, Lane.

SPRING 1988/Stories include: Warriors, Hogan-Andre, DiBiase, Honky Tonk, T.A., War Games.

SUMMER 1988/Stories include: Luger, Hogan, Cornette, Hennig, Bigelow, Hyatt, Rude, Strike Force.

FALL 1988/Stories include: Luger, Hogan, DiBiase, Kerry & Hayes, Sting, Savage, Paul E., Gilbert.

WINTER 1988/Stories include: Sting, Hyatt, Dusty, Roberts, Ultimate, Powers of Pain, Hayes, Garvin.

SPRING 1989/Stories include: Savage, Bossman, Sting, Lawler, Hogan, Luger, Hyatt, Anderson, Parsons.

SUMMER 1989/Stories include: Steamboat, Hogan, Rotundo-Steiner, Warriors, Duggan, Turner, Taylor.

AUGUST 1989/Stories include: Hogan, Warriors, Martel, Sting, Studd, Morton, Ultimate, Sheik, Funk, PWF.

OCTOBER 1989/Stories include: Rhodes, Savage, Steamboat-Flair, Muta, WrestleMania V, Cornette.

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WHAT'S HAPPENING

(Continued from page 8)

Demolition on July 18 in Worcester, Massachusetts. Tully and Arn became the first team ever to have held both the NWA and WWF World tag belts. Demolition's record-setting WWF tag title reign ended after 15 months 21 days; they had beaten **Rick Martel** and **Tito Santana** for the belts at WrestleMania IV. Blanchard and Anderson were two-time World tag champs in the NWA.

By the way, many people have inquired as to why World champion **Hulk Hogan** missed several cards prior to SummerSlam. Well, he had a pinched nerve and wanted to rest up for the big match. **Brutus Beefcake** replaced Hogan against **Randy Savage** on most of those cards.

Ivan Koloff defeated Invader I to win the WWC Puerto Rican championship.

Ivan Koloff hadn't held a heavyweight title since 1984, when he was Mid-Atlantic champion. But the "Russian Bear" turned back the clock on July 26 in Puerto Rico when he defeated **Invader I** for the WWC Puerto Rican championship. Also, **Miguel Perez Jr.** and **Hurricane Castillo Jr.** won the tag team belts from **Abughdadien** and **"Hustler" Rip Rogers** . . . **Beef Wellington** is back in Stampede and looking for a tag team partner. Wellington wants to go after Stampede International tag champs **Kerry** and **Bob Brown**.

There's a new tag team title in the CWA. It's called the Tennessee State championship and the first holders are **Jeff Jarrett** and **Todd Morton**, who defeated **Iceman Parsons** and **Brickhouse Brown** in the final of a one-night tournament. Interestingly, in the first round, Morton and Jarrett battled to a 20-minute draw with **Mark Starr** and **Chris Champion**—a.k.a. **Wildside**. The fans were asked to pick, by applause, who the winners were and chose Morton and Jarrett. The CWA will also crown a Kentucky champ and plans to hold Kentucky vs. Tennessee matches.

Owen Hart is back in Stampede! He saved the injured **Davey Boy Smith** from an attack by **Dynamite Kid** and **Johnny Smith**, then announced he had cancelled his United States obligations to go after Kid and Smith—a.k.a. **The British Bruisers**. Davey Boy was injured in a July 4 auto accident . . . **The Nasty Boys** were stripped of the FCW tag belts for missing several mandatory defenses. They have since left the area . . . New FCW champ **Steve Keirn** is defending his title against **Ho Chi Win**.

Dennis Condrey, formerly of **The Midnight Express**, has proven he can make it on his own. Condrey won the CWF title from **Tom Prichard** on July 22 in Dothan, Alabama. But shortly afterward, Condrey lost the support of the fans. Condrey won a "Rage in the Cage" match, a battle royal in which eliminated wrestlers are handcuffed to the cage. The last man standing is allowed to unlock one friend to help him beat up the other handcuffed men. **Sylvia** entered the ring and offered Condrey $10,000 to allow her to unlock her men—**Brian Lee**, **Jimmy Golden**, **Tom Prichard**, **Terrance Garvin**, and **Mike Davis**. To everybody's surprise, Condrey took the money and ran! This left Sylvia's men free to attack **Wendell Cooley**, **Todd Morton**, **Steve Armstrong**, and **Dan Davis**!

Magnificent Mimi recently finished work on the Paramount Pictures film *The American Angels*

Larry Zbyszko has been using devious tactics to hold on to his AWA World title.

. . . AWA World champion **Larry Zbyszko** continues to desecrate his own title. When **Ken Patera** locked him in a swinging neckbreaker, Zbyszko kicked referee **Tom Burton** and was disqualified . . . **Joe Malenko** successfully defended the All-Japan junior heavyweight title against his brother **Dean Malenko**. Joe was forced to wrestle Dean as a stipulation of his title-winning victory over **Mitsuo Momota** . . . The NWA used a lack of defenses by **Eddie Gilbert** and **Rick Steiner** as an excuse to retire the U.S. tag team belts. They had actually been wanting to do that for a while.

That's what's happening. See you at the matches. □

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August 1982/COLOR PINUP: Dino Bravo. **Steamboat & Rich**, Andre, Martel, Piper, Blassie.

January 1983/COLOR PINUP: Ken Patera. **Rick Steamboat**, Rich, Brody, Sullivan, Backlund.

February 1983/COLOR PINUP: Ivan Putski. **Rhodes vs. Garvin**, Snuka, Super Destroyer, Bockwinkel, Funk.

April 1983/COLOR PINUP: Superstar Graham. **Mil Mascaras**, Valentine, Orndorff, Hart.

June 1983/COLOR PINUP: Cowboy Bob Orton. **Rick Martel**, Von Erich, Slaughter, Muraco.

July 1983/COLOR PINUP: Ivan Koloff. **Tommy Rich**, Patera, Von Erich, Snuka.

August 1983/COLOR PINUP: Larry Zbyszko. **Roddy Piper**, Sullivan, Zbyszko, Von Erich, Wrestling II.

October 1983/COLOR PINUP: Junkyard Dog. **Tommy Rich**, Johnson, Adonis, Rhodes, Piper.

November 1983/COLOR PINUP: Roddy Piper. **Harley Race**, Santana, Mascaras, Ellering, Valiant, Race.

December 1983/COLOR PINUP: Wahoo McDaniel. **Dusty Rhodes**, Hayes, Steamboat, Hansen, DiBiase.

January 1984/COLOR PINUP: Harley Race. **Rick Martel**, Snuka, Freebirds, Dillon, Sawyer.

February 1984/COLOR PINUP: Jim Garvin & Sunshine. **Greg Valentine**, Super Destroyer, Race, Sawyer, Abdullah.

June 1984/COLOR PINUP: Dick Slater. **Ted DiBiase**, Wrestling II, Magnum T.A., Patera, Hogan.

July 1984/COLOR PINUP: Paul Ellering. **Jimmy Valiant**, JYD, Fab Ones, Gagne, Windham.

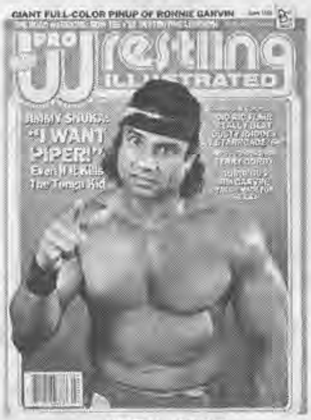
August 1984/COLOR PINUP: Stan Hansen. **Jerry Lawler**, Sullivan, Slaughter, Blackwell & Patera, Flair.

October 1984/COLOR PINUP: Billy Jack. **Kerry Von Erich**, Martel, Blanchard, Fabulous Blonds, Armstrong.

November 1984/COLOR PINUP: Rick Martel. **Sgt. Slaughter**, Von Erich, Road Warriors, Windham, Rotundo.

January 1985/COLOR PINUP: Tito Santana. **Road Warriors**, Billy Jack, Hayes, 1984 fan ballot.

February 1985/COLOR PINUP: Magnum T.A. **Rick Martel**, Hogan, Backlund, Ellering.



APRIL 1985

April 1985/COLOR PINUP: Ronnie Garvin, **Jimmy Snuka**, Warriors, Gordy, Flair, Rhodes.

June 1985/COLOR PINUP: Barry Windham. **Dusty Rhodes**, Slaughter, Hogan, Von Erich, T.A.

July 1985/COLOR PINUP: Sgt. Slaughter. **Hogan vs. Piper**, Warriors, One Man Gang, T.A., Martel.

September 1985/COLOR PINUP: Junkyard Dog. **Magnum T.A**, Von Erich, Hogan, AWA scouting reports.

October 1985/COLOR PINUP: Chris Adams. **Rick Steamboat**, Warriors, Nikita, WWF scouting reports.

November 1985/COLOR PINUP: Randy Savage. **Ric Flair**, Slaughter, Steamboat, World Class scouting reports.

December 1985/COLOR PINUP: Jesse Ventura. **Great American Bash**, Von Erich, Orndorff, Williams & DiBiase.

January 1986/COLOR PINUP: Hacksaw Duggan. **Hulk Hogan**, T.A., Brody.

February 1986/COLOR PINUP: Nikita Koloff. **Mike Von Erich**, Warriors, Santana, Taylor, Barbarian, Race.

April 1986/COLOR PINUP: Ric Flair. **Wendi Richter**, Adams & Hernandez, Dusty & Warriors vs. Flair & Andersons.

May 1986/COLOR PINUP: Rick Steamboat. **Road Warriors**, Humongous, Bulldogs, Hansen vs. Martel.

June 1986/COLOR PINUP: Kevin Von Erich. **Hulk Hogan**, Adams, Duggan, Scott Hall.

July 1986/COLOR PINUP: King Kong Bundy. **R & R Express**, Hall and Hennig, Ventura, Warriors.

August 1986/COLOR PINUP: Dusty Rhodes. **Randy Savage**, Lugar vs. Race, Blanchard vs. Flair, Rude.

October 1986/COLOR PINUP: John Studd. **Nikita Koloff**, Savage vs. Bundy, Landell, Flair vs. Lugar, Simpson.

November 1986/COLOR PINUP: Baby Doll. **British Bulldogs**, Von Erich, Hansen, Gordy, Flair-Tully-Arn-Ole.

December 1986/COLOR PINUP: Great American Bash. **Great American Bash**, Midnight Rockers, Von Erich, Windham.

January 1987/COLOR PINUP: Fabulous Freebirds. **Roddy Piper**, Nikita vs. T.A., Snuka, Simpson.

February 1987/COLOR PINUP: Savage & Elizabeth. **UWF Tournament**, T.A., Baby Doll, Hogan vs. Orndorff.

April 1987/COLOR PINUP: Lex Luger. **Dusty & Nikita**, DiBiase, DeBeers, Dingo, WWF Housecleaning.

May 1987/COLOR PINUP: Steve Williams. **Andre-Hogan**, UWF Tourny, Albano, Cornette, Dynamite Kid, Kerry.

June 1987/COLOR PINUP: Hulk Hogan. **Magnum T.A.**, Can-Ams, Warriors, Freebirds, Hall.

July 1987/COLOR PINUP: Midnight Rockers. **Steamboat-Savage**, Luger, Duggan, Garvins, Sting.

August 1987/COLOR PINUP: Jim Garvin & Precious. **Hogan-Andre**, Warriors, Windham-Flair, Gordy, Bigelow.

October 1987/COLOR PINUP: Ted DiBiase. **Ric Flair**, Williams, Rockers, Hogan vs. Steamboat, NWA & WWF.

November 1987/COLOR PINUP: George Steele. **Nikita Koloff**, Warriors, Harts, Hogan, Windham.

January 1988/COLOR PINUP: The Road Warriors. **Ted DiBiase**, Flair-Garvins, Hogan & Ventura, Zbyszko.

February 1988/COLOR PINUP: Ronnie Garvin. **Randy Savage**, Garvin-Flair, Von Erichs, Freebirds.

April 1988/COLOR PINUP: Rick Martel. **Lex Luger**, Flair-Garvin, Kerry, Survivor Series, Iron Sheik.

May 1988/COLOR PINUP: Sting. **Andre**, Valentine-Beefcake, Flair, Cornette, Owen Hart.

June 1988/COLOR PINUP: Tully Blanchard. **Hulk Hogan**, Muraco, Perez, Rockers, Bunkhouse Stampede.

July 1988/COLOR PINUP: Curt Hennig. **Hogan vs. Andre**, Express vs. Rockers, Beefcake, Perez, Rotundo-Sting.

August 1988/COLOR PINUP: Al Perez. **Savage & Hogan**, Gilbert-Lawler, Four Horsemen, Kerry Von Erich.

October 1988/COLOR PINUP: Ultimate Warrior. **Sting**, Savage, Lawler, Williams, Steamboat, Varsity Club.

November 1988/COLOR PINUP: The Midnight Express. **Hogan**, Rhodes, Express, Powers of Pain.

December 1988/COLOR PINUP: Hacksaw Duggan. **Four Horsemen**, Brody, Bigelow, Garvin, Precious.

January 1989/COLOR PINUP: Barry Windham. **Hogan-Savage-Elizabeth**, Warriors, Sting.

February 1989/COLOR PINUP: Jake Roberts. **Luger**, Hogan-Savage, Kevin Von, Beefcake-Bass.

April 1989/COLOR PINUP: Rick Steiner. **Savage**, Dangerously, Muraco, Turner, Powers.

June 1989/COLOR PINUP: Rick Steamboat. **Hogan vs. Savage**, Warriors, Zbyszko, Rhodes.

July 1989/COLOR PINUP: Roddy Piper. **Steamboat**, Hogan, Paul E., Dream Tournament, Studd, Muraco.

August 1989/COLOR PINUP: Lex Luger. **Hogan**, Ultimate, Steamboat-Flair, Road Warriors, Rhodes.

October 1989/COLOR PINUP: Rick Rude. **Luger vs. Hogan**, Snuka, Sting, Lawler vs. Perez, Page.

November 1989/COLOR PINUP: Ric Flair. **Rhodes**, Steiner, Luger vs. Steamboat, Ultimate, Fuller-Jarrett.

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CORRESPONDENTS REPORTS

(Continued from page 16)

Jimmy Snuka pinned Honky Tonk Man . . . Bad News Brown beat Blue Blazer . . . Tim Horner pinned Super G . . . Lanny Poffo upset Jim Powers . . . The Barbarian pinned Jim Neidhart . . . Rick Martel downed Tito Santana.

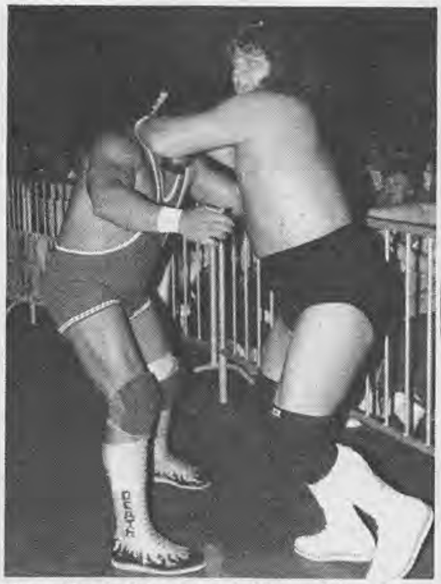
Charleston, SC *(Correspondent—Scott Andrews):* Charleston's Johnson Hagood Stadium hosted the Great American Bash, featuring the popular two-ring "Triple Crown" battle royal. It featured a large variety of wrestlers, from Trent Knight and the Ding Dongs to Steve Williams and Terry Gordy.

The match started when Gordy and Williams began brawling outside the ring. Then everyone went wild. The first person out of ring one was Knight, quickly followed by one of the Ding Dongs. The elimination went on until only Gordy remained in ring one.

In ring number two, there were three men remaining: Williams, Brian Pillman, and Norman the Lunatic. Norman dumped Pillman out, then Williams went after him. After a short battle, Williams hoisted Norman into the air and eliminated the Lunatic. This left only Williams in ring number two.

Williams and Gordy went at it for the $25,000 prize and the right to compete in the finals of the "Triple Crown" in Baltimore. The battle went on until Gordy went to clothesline Williams while "Dr. Death" was hanging on the ropes. Williams pushed the rope down and Gordy went smashing to the ground outside the ring.

Williams won the match, but his victory celebration would be short: Gordy was back in the ring very quickly. This time, he brought Jim Garvin with him to help in the battle. They double-teamed Williams until The Midnight Express ran in to clear the ring.



Terry Gordy tries to get his archrival Steve Williams back in the ring.

In other bouts: Lex Luger beat Rick Steamboat . . . The Samoan Swat Team downed The Road Warriors . . . Sting beat Terry Funk by DQ . . . The Great Muta beat Eddie Gilbert . . . Brian Pillman whipped Bill Irwin . . . The Fabulous Freebirds were victorious over The Midnight Express & Steve Williams . . . Rick & Scott Steiner beat Kevin Sullivan & Mike Rotundo . . . Dan Spivey & Sid Vicious defeated Ranger Ross & Randy Rose.

Portland, OR *(Correspondent—Alex Conway):* The main event at the Portland Sports Arena was a tag team match pitting Carl Styles and Billy Jack Haynes against The Grappler and Nord the Barbarian.

Styles and Haynes were at a distinct disadvantage, as they each were wrestling with limited eyesight: Styles, who has a glass right eye, suffered almost total blindness in his left eye several weeks earlier when Grappler shot green fog in his face. Haynes also suffered from limited vision in his left eye due to Grappler's fog.

The match was a particularly brutal one, as each team was trying not only to beat the other, but to *cripple* as well. The advantage switched back and forth several times, with Styles and Haynes wrestling with particular ferocity: They were out for revenge, and would not be denied it on this evening.

Grappler and Nord earned themselves a disqualification when Grappler fled the ring, ran back to the dressing room, and was counted out. Seconds later, however, he returned to the ring and was clearly up to no good. It was obvious that he was brandishing a packet containing the same green substance that had blinded Haynes and Styles.

Billy Jack Haynes slugs it out with Nord the Barbarian during a tag team encounter.

Haynes and Grappler struggled over the packet, and when it fell to the ground Haynes grabbed it and tossed it to Styles, who put the green substance in his mouth and spit it in Grappler's face, blinding *him* in his left eye!

In other bouts: Scotty the Body & Top Gun defeated Steve Doll & Scott Peterson . . . Al Madril and The Midnight Soldier battled to a draw . . . "Beetlejuice" Art Barr downed Jonathan Boyd . . . Rex King upended C.W. Bergstrom.□

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GARVIN & HAYES

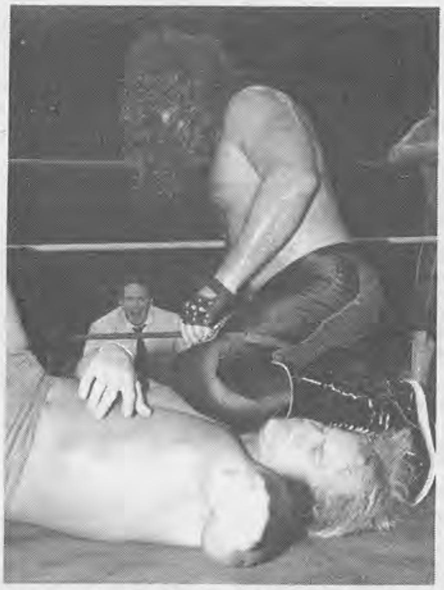
(Continued from page 33)

Bobby Eaton takes on Garvin, and Stan Lane battles Hayes (above); The Freebirds beat Eaton and Lane for the title. Williams executes a flying bodypress on Gordy (below). Hayes has complained that Gordy spends too much time feuding with Williams.

changed over the past few years, and the way things stand now there's no way we're all going to get together again. You have to remember, though, that the friendship between Garvin and Hayes isn't something new. These guys have been close friends for years."

Roberts claimed to have been contacted several times by Hayes for a Freebird reunion, but refused each time because of the stipulation that Garvin would be the fourth Freebird. "That was unacceptable," Roberts said. "I didn't want any part of it."

Gordy, however, was less suspicious of Hayes' actions. Apparently, Gordy and Hayes spoke to each other several times a week while Gordy was wrestling in Japan with tag team partner Stan Hansen. In fact, $453.78 worth of calls were made from Hayes' number in Atlanta to Gordy's apartment in Tokyo over a six-week period. Approximately 90 percent of those calls were followed up with a call from Hayes to Garvin.



Garvin drives his knee into Lane's chest. This kind of aggressiveness makes him an important member of the 'Birds.

"There was undoubtedly some type of scam going on, and Gordy was the victim," said Editor-in-Chief Stu Saks, who spearheaded the investigation. "Such a high percentage of follow-up calls definitely suggests skullduggery. Hayes and Garvin had something going together."

That became even more obvious during the Great American Bash, when Garvin, Hayes, and Gordy teamed in several six-man tag matches against Rick Steiner, Scott Steiner, and Steve Williams. At first, their teamwork was exemplary. As the Bash wore on, problems developed. Tags were missed and moves weren't executed with proper precision. Often, it seemed as if Gordy was called on to wrestle in the most dangerous and exhausting situations. The 'Birds continued to win, but signs of a rift started to show.

"Absolutely untrue," Hayes contended.

"Prove it," Garvin challenged.

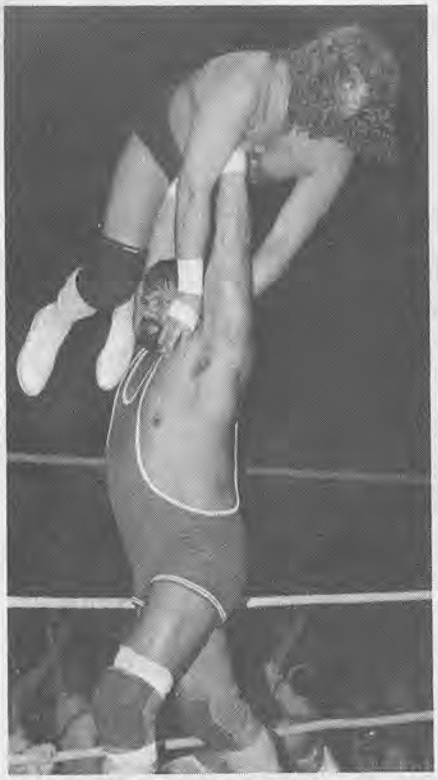
"I was in there a lot during the toughest parts of our matches, but I *wanted* to be in there," Gordy insisted.

But one of our reporters overheard a conversation among Garvin, Gordy, and Hayes, that proves a rift exists. It took place in the Pittsburgh Civic Center after Hayes, Garvin, and Gordy lost to the Steiner brothers and Williams. A brief excerpt follows:

HAYES: Listen, we lost this match because you didn't have your mind in it. You're either a full-fledged member and you concentrate on us, or you can just take off.

GORDY: There ain't no problems, P.S., the only problem is that you and this outsider over here refuse to pull your weight. You're too concerned about getting hurt and not being able to defend the tag belts.

GARVIN: Don't call me no outsider.



Gordy is helpless when Williams presses him overhead, and he's getting no help from The Freebirds.

I'm as much a Freebird as anyone else.

The conversation continued in a similar vein for nearly 20 minutes and ended with Garvin and Hayes walking off without Gordy.

From this conversation, however, it appears clear that Hayes and Garvin want Gordy to leave on his own. They won't kick him out of The Freebirds, nor will they ask him to leave. They won't even turn against their "partner."

"They have to give the image that The Freebirds are alive and well," Roberts said.

But that's far from the truth. It certainly wouldn't be a surprise to see Gordy leave Hayes and Garvin and return to Japan in the near future. He has survived very well without The Freebirds and has a title of his own to defend: the All-Japan International tag team title he shares with Stan Hansen.

Gordy has no place playing third-string Freebird to Hayes and Garvin. And, sadly for "Bamm Bamm," his part in helping them win the NWA World tag team title will soon be forgotten by almost everyone.

The plot has succeeded. The investigation is closed. □

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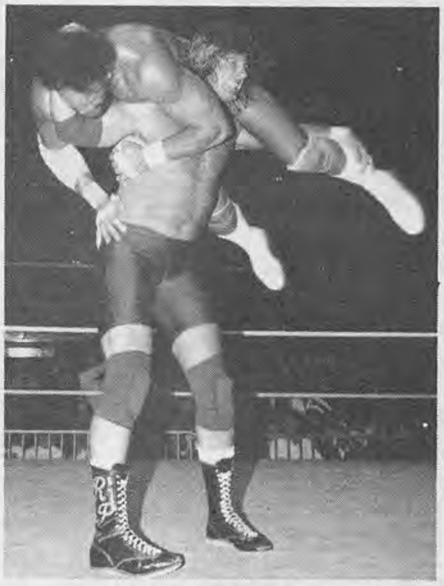
PIPER & SAVAGE

(Continued from page 35)



"Rowdy" Roddy Piper lifts Randy "Macho Man" Savage into a fireman's carry.

Piper was a rulebreaker. "He is always fighting an inner battle with the forces of evil," Dr. Basil once said. "If he lets his guard down for a minute, the evil will win. If he doesn't feel like fighting the battle anymore, the evil will win, too."

● Piper originally came back because he loved the ring and wanted to stay in shape. But now, having defeated a former World champion, Piper must feel that he's capable of beating Hogan. With that kind of confidence, there's no reason why he shouldn't go after the "Hulkster."

Hogan must know what Piper's victory over Savage means. He must know that the logical next step for Piper is to go after the World title—a step that Piper wouldn't have much difficulty making. "I don't go by any set of rules but my own," Piper has often said. "In this sport, the rules must change according to what you're after."

"Hogan wants no part of Piper," said "Mr. Wonderful" Paul Orndorff, who wrestled Hogan for the title many times and teamed with Piper often in the early and mid-'80s. "Hogan needs to deal with wrestlers with a set game plan. A guy like Savage might be a little off his rocker, but at least he's consistent. There's no way to defend against Piper, and Hogan knows it. You just don't know *what* the guy's going to do next."

A few months prior to his death last July, Adrian Adonis discussed his feud with Piper. "That might've been the toughest period of my career," Adonis said. "Piper was a fan favorite, and I don't know what the heck that means, but he acted like one of us. There's absolutely nothing he wouldn't do to prove his point. That's what makes Piper so scary. He's ruthless."

Hogan would agree that his own feud with Piper was one of the most difficult times of his career. It was also one of the most famous, and culminated with the "War To Settle The Score," when, on national TV, Piper, Paul Orndorff, and Bob Orton attacked Hogan, Mr. T, Cyndi Lauper, and Lou Albano.

"Piper was behind that whole thing," Orton now admits. "He had it set up from the start that we'd all go after them, and Hogan was the main target. He knew what it would mean to bring down Hogan. Everybody knows what it means to bring down

Piper, the on-again off-again rulebreaker, smashes Savage's head into the turnbuckle for the third consecutive time.

"Sensational" Sherri Martel holds Piper's leg, giving Savage a decided advantage.

Martel pulls Savage out of the ring to save him from more of Piper's punishment. When Piper pinned Savage, he not only proved he was back as a wrestler, he put Hulk Hogan on notice that he is perfectly capable of capturing the WWF World title.

Piper and Savage show their exhaustion as they slap at each other outside the ring.

Hogan. That's like your ticket to anything you want."

It would make Piper more famous than he's ever been. Even more famous than he was after winning "Most Hated Wrestler of the Year" two consecutive years, a feat still unequaled. That, above all, is what must always be remembered about Piper: When he's bad, there's none worse. Nobody is capable of the diabolical crimes Piper has committed in the past.

Right now, Hogan has enough to worry about. Savage, despite getting beaten several times, refuses to stop his assault on Hogan. Zeus, a man with considerable size but laughable wrestling ability, will continue to hound the "Hulkster." Then there are the other top contenders in the WWF: Akeem, Big Bossman, Bad News Brown, and Barry Windham. They all have considerable talent, but none are as dangerous as Piper.

It's incredible how one simple match can change the course of wrestling history. Piper defeated Savage, and suddenly a million possibilities sprung up.

The most likely involves Hogan. Don't think he's happy. ☐

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FLAIR VS. FUNK

(Continued from page 37)

Flair goes for the figure-four leglock. Funk would break out of the maneuver, but end up being pinned. For Flair, the match may have been his most important title defense ever.

that was undoubtedly enhanced by his layoff and not as sharp as he should have been 15½ minutes into battle, missed with a knee. Flair fell to the mat and Funk applied a spinning toehold. The "Nature Boy," however, grabbed Funk's leg and went for a figure-four leglock. Funk managed to grab Flair's head and roll him up for the small-package pin, but Flair executed a picture-perfect reversal for the three-count. The pin was as clean as possible.

The aftermath wasn't. Gary Hart, Funk's surprise manager for the match, charged into the ring, but was floored by Flair. Then The Great Muta ran out from the dressing room and blew his green mist into Flair's face. The tragedy of May 7, when Flair was brutally attacked by Funk after his title victory over Rick Steamboat, was about to be relived. Funk and Muta delivered a severe pounding to Flair, and prepared to piledrive Flair onto a steel chair when Sting came out to save his former rival.

A four-way brawl ensued and lasted about 10 minutes. Sting and Flair quickly gained the upper hand, but Funk and Muta refused to give way. Three times it appeared as if the battle was over. Each time, it continued. Funk threw a chair at Flair, who chased him back down the runway. In the end, all four men suffered mightily in this near-riot. Undoubtedly, they'll suffer again.

"Ric Flair is a great wrestler and he wrestled a great match,"

After the match, The Great Muta and Funk pound on the champion. Flair was saved by Sting, who was an enemy of his not long ago. Now Sting is an eager ally.

TO BLEED OR NOT TO BLEED

July 10, 1988: Lex Luger puts Ric Flair in a painful backbreaker and is on the verge of winning the NWA World title. But Maryland State Athletic Commission official Ray Ianucci orders referee Tommy Young to stop the match because Luger is bleeding. Luger is outraged. Ianucci maintains that "Maryland has a state athletic guideline that prohibits a match from continuing after blood has been sighted."

July 23, 1989: Flair defends his NWA World title against Terry Funk at the Baltimore Arena. With 10 minutes expired, Funk uses his branding iron to open a cut on Flair's forehead. Flair bleeds profusely, but the match is allowed to continue. Minutes later, Flair uses the branding iron to cut Funk. The match, refereed by Tommy Young, goes on.

"What stinks is that Flair was bleeding a lot worse than I was," an angry Lex Luger said. "The truth of the matter is that there's this bias toward Flair and I don't understand it."

"Blood is a part of the sport," NWA Executive Vice President Jim Herd said. "It's unfortunate that the match was stopped last year, but this is a new NWA under new leadership. Wrestling, by its nature, can get extremely violent. We asked the State Athletic Commission to be a little more lenient, especially in light of last year's controversy."

But a new controversy has been created.

—Bill Apter

Sting said. "There was no reason for that attack. It was totally unprovoked, and I felt a responsibility to the *sport* to help the champ."

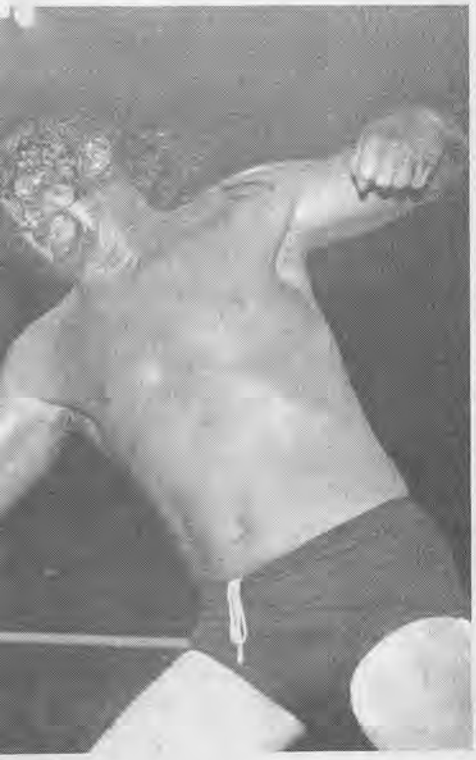
"Flair thinks he's done with me, but this thing ain't over," Funk promised. "This is one match, one time, and he got lucky once, but it's not gonna happen again. I have my eye on that title, and I also have my eye on Flair's scalp."

"Sting shouldn't have gotten involved with this," Hart said. "It was none of his business. But now he's a part of it, and he can't get out."

"Sting saved me," Flair said. "Here's a guy who I've gone to battle with many times, but he saved me. Now we're gonna go after Funk and Muta and you'd better believe that this thing's only started."

It is unfortunate that both of Flair's last two matches have been overshadowed by heinous post-match incidents, each involving Funk.

On May 7, Terry Funk almost put Ric Flair to rest. On July 23, he made the mistake of waking him up again. □



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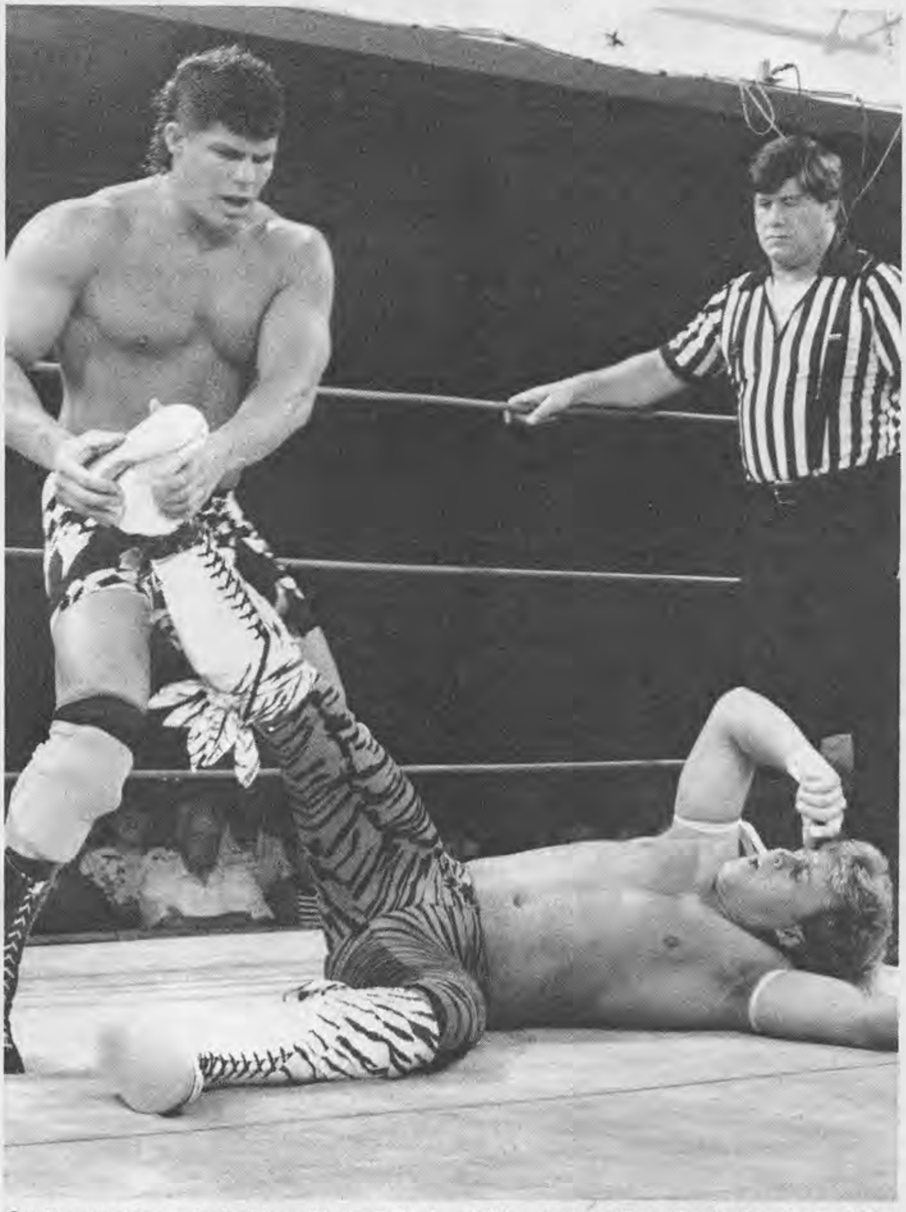
(Continued from page 20)



Scotty executes a toehold on Steve Doll. In addition to wrestling, Scotty has been doing color commentary, and his obnoxious views gain him new enemies every day.

spoiled rotten!

"My dad drives a Rolls Royce," claims Scotty. "I can't help it that I come from a white-collar, affluent family. All of my clothes come from the finest shops. When I'm in Beverly Hills, I shop on Rodeo Drive. Why should I settle for anything less?"

After attending high school in New Jersey, Scotty moved on to the University of Delaware, from which he graduated in 1987. He was a standout competitor for the wrestling team, and though he had earned degrees in criminal justice and psychology, he opted for professional wrestling.

Scotty's first pro match was on February 20, 1988, when he defeated Jimmy Jack Funk in Nashville, Tennessee. He remained in the CWA for several months before moving to Florida Championship Wrestling during the summer.

"I held the Florida TV title for about 11 months," said Scotty, who packs 235 pounds on his superbly sculpted frame. "I beat Steve Keirn for that belt, and I was the longest-reigning TV champ they ever had down there. I never lost that belt, either—I just walked away from it when I decided to come to Oregon to wrestle for the PNW. It's been onward and upward ever since."

Buoyed by his success in Florida, Scotty made an immediate splash in Portland, augmenting his vast scientific knowledge with his newfound penchant for brawling. Soon he began doing color commentary on PNW television broadcasts, and he truly started to gain the public's attention.

"This guy will say *anything* about *anybody*," said Don Coss, the blow-by-blow announcer for *Pacific Northwest Wrestling.* "Everything he does is flamboyant. He recently hired a lovely new valet, Ginger, which draws even more attention to himself."

Scotty has been at war with Carl Styles, who has made several attempts to win a date with Ginger. When Styles came and presented her with a bouquet of roses, it started a feud that has grown more intense by the day.

"Hey, 'Popeye's' a little bit simpleminded," claims Scotty, who continually pokes fun at Styles' glass eye. "He's sent Ginger cards, he's written her poems, and he's even given her his pet pig. Well, Styles isn't nearly man enough for a woman like her. I won't be happy until I retire the big bum so that he can't bother me or Ginger anymore."

Even with all the animosity he's created since entering the PNW, Scotty claims he wouldn't have it any other way. He insists that his days as a champion have only begun.

"I've only been wrestling for a year-and-a-half," he said with a smile. "Most wrestlers take more than five years before they win their first championship, but I've already gained two in no time at all. Imagine how many belts I'll have won before my career is through!" □

YOU ASKED US

(Continued from page 18)

would be a great match against either of them." Eddie Gilbert responded: "Rick and Scott are like brothers to me, but I'm a very competitive person and I don't want to compete against my brothers. I've seen friends wrestle before, and it never turns out good. So, for the good of the 'First Family,' I'd have to turn them down."

***

Q: "My question is for Senior Editor Bill Apter: I hope to become a wrestling photographer one day, and I was wondering if you can give me any pointers about shooting a match."—Ken Josephson, Buffalo, NY.

A: Bill Apter responded: "Concentration and anticipation, those are the two keys. It's also important to keep your eyes open, because if you're not careful one of those big wrestlers could fall right on top of you. Also, always keep your lens focused on the action, and look for interesting shots, unusual types of things that you might not normally see at the matches."

***

Q: "My question is for Austin Idol: Do you have any plans to come to the WWF to challenge Hulk Hogan for his World title or Rick Rude for his Intercontinental title?"—Terry Edwards, Dayton, OH.

Austin Idol has wrestled in many federations, but presently has no plans to go to the WWF. He claims, however, that he'd easily defeat World champ Hulk Hogan or Intercontinental titlist Rick Rude.

A: Idol responded: "I don't make any plans, I just go where the wind blows. Maybe one day I'll go after Hogan and Rude, but right now they're not worth my time. You're talking about two guys that get a lot of publicity, but neither of them have any talent except to throw punches and cheat. I'd teach both of them a lesson they'd never forget." □

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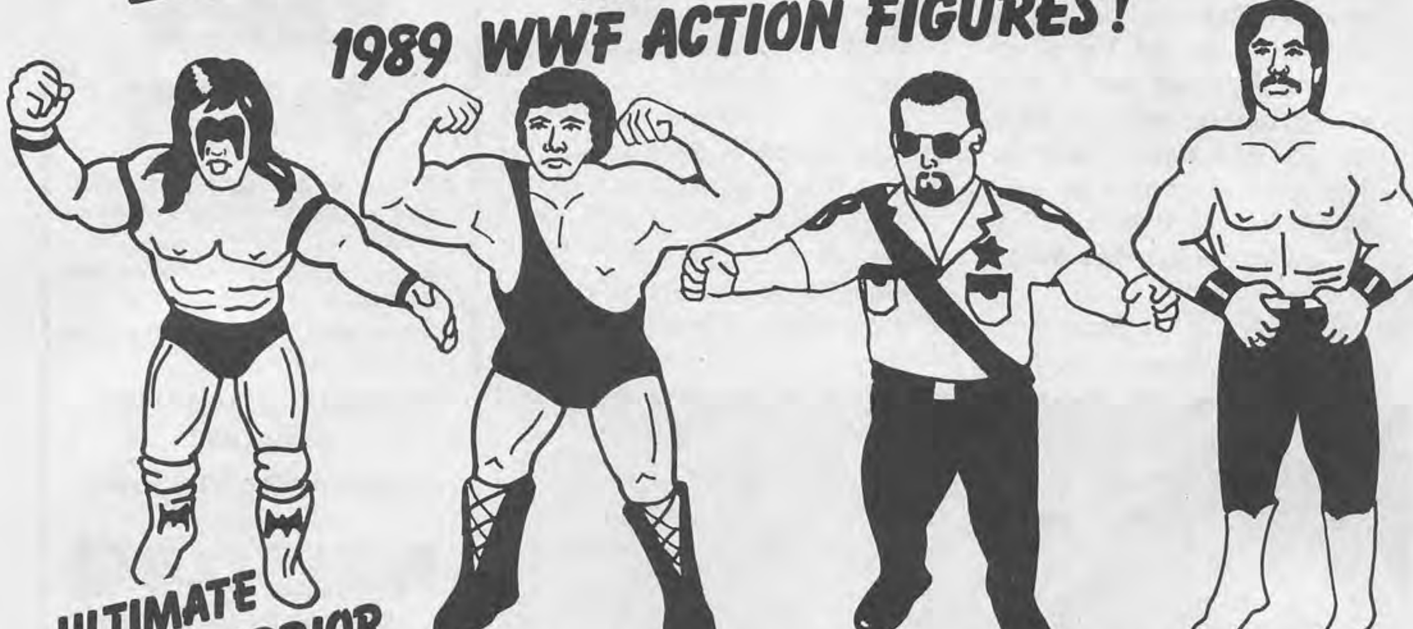

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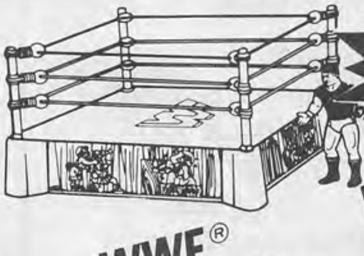

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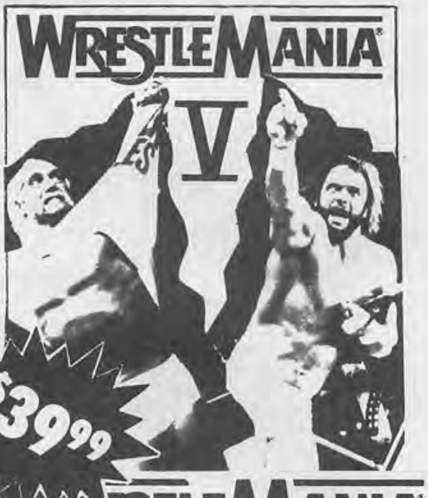

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5 **STING**
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No. 1 contender: NWA TV title

6 **RICK STEAMBOAT**
238, Honolulu, HI
No. 4 contender: NWA title

7 **RICK RUDE**
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WWF Intercontinental champion

8 **JERRY LAWLER**
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World Class champion

9 **LARRY ZBYSZKO**
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The Bushwhackers

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WWF

World Champion:
HULK HOGAN
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1—**RICK RUDE**
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4—**MIL MASCARAS**
245, Mexico City, Mexico

5—**AL PEREZ**
238, Tampa, FL

6—**CHRIS ADAMS**
228, Stratford, England

7—**JEFF JARRETT**
200, Hendersonville, TN

8—**CPL. BRADDOCK**
244, Dallas, TX

9—**JIMMY JACK FUNK**
243, Portland, OR

10—**KEVIN VON ERICH**
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OFFICIAL RATINGS

Top 10 and Tag Team ratings are based on won-lost records for the past month, quality of opposition, and inherent skill of each wrestler or team. These ratings are compiled by the magazine's editorial board. Most Popular and Most Hated ratings are based on nationwide telephone and arena surveys of wrestling fans and on the volume and character of mail that comes to our offices. All other ratings are based on the official current positions of challengers to the top title in each category; certain titleholders receive an automatic spot in the ratings.

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Last month: No. 1 Most Popular
2. **STING**
260, Venice Beach, CA
Last month: No. 2 Most Popular
3. **RIC FLAIR**
243, Minneapolis, MN
Last month: unrated
4. **BRUTUS BEEFCAKE**
273, San Francisco, CA
Last month: No. 4 Most Popular
5. **THE ULTIMATE WARRIOR**
280, Queens, NY
Last month: No. 3 Most Popular
6. **DUSTY RHODES**
302, Austin, TX
Last month: No. 7 Most Popular
7. **HACKSAW DUGGAN**
280, Glens Falls, NY
Last month: No. 6 Most Popular
8. **RICK STEINER**
248, Detroit, MI
Last month: No. 9 Most Popular
9. **ERIC EMBRY**
225, Lexington, KY
Last month: No. 8 Most Popular
10. **OWEN HART**
223, Calgary, Alberta
Last month: unrated

MOST HATED

1. **TERRY FUNK**
247, Amarillo, TX
Last month: No. 2 Most Hated
2. **RANDY SAVAGE**
245, Sarasota, FL
Last month: No. 1 Most Hated
3. **ZEUS**
343, Los Angeles, CA
Last month: No. 5 Most Hated
4. **RICK RUDE**
246, Robbinsdale, MN
Last month: No. 4 Most Hated
5. **LEX LUGER**
268, Chicago, IL
Last month: No. 3 Most Hated
6. **THE GREAT MUTA**
245, Tokyo, Japan
Last month: No. 6 Most Hated
7. **LARRY ZBYSZKO**
248, Pittsburgh, PA
Last month: No. 7 Most Hated
8. **BIG BOSSMAN**
348, Cobb County, GA
Last month: No. 8 Most Hated
9. **JERRY LAWLER**
234, Memphis, TN
Last month: No. 9 Most Hated
10. **DENNIS CONDREY**
256, Marietta, GA
Last month: unrated

For period ended July 27, 1989

CUMULATIVE RATINGS

These ratings are based on the past 10 issues of this magazine. We have examined our ratings for each of those issues—in our Top 10 and Tag Team categories only—and assigned each position a point value: 10 points for a number-one rating, nine for a number-two ranking, and so on down to one point for a number-10 rating. The point values for all wrestlers in the past 10 issues have been compiled, allowing a maximum of 100 points. Each issue we'll present the top five finishers in each category. While our regular ratings reflect the past month, these cumulative ratings give an indication of wider trends in the sport.

SINGLES

1—RANDY SAVAGE ....86 points
2—HULK HOGAN ....71 points
3—LEX LUGER ....68 points
4—RIC FLAIR ....67 points
5—RICK STEAMBOAT ....51 points

TAG TEAMS

1—DEMOLITION ....92 points
1—THE ROAD WARRIORS ....92 points
3—SAMOAN SWAT TEAM ....49 points
4—STAN LANE & BOBBY EATON....................45 points
5—PAT TANAKA & PAUL DIAMOND ....34 points

STAMPEDE

North American Champion:
LARRY CAMERON
280, Chicago, IL

1—CHRIS BENOIT
218, Edmonton, Alberta
2—JOHNNY SMITH
235, Manchester, England
3—DYNAMITE KID
228, Manchester, England
4—JASON THE TERRIBLE II
240, parts unknown
5—ANGEL OF DEATH
310, Los Angeles, CA
6—BRUCE HART
211, Calgary, Alberta
7—GAMA SINGH
220, Karachi, Pakistan
8—LEN CRAZY HORSE
220, LaRonge, Saskatchewan
9—STEVE RAY
227, Kansas City, KS
10—OWEN HART
223, Calgary, Alberta

CWA

CWA Champion:
BLACK BART
261, Pampa, TX

1—JEFF JARRETT
200, Hendersonville, TN
2—JERRY LAWLER
234, Memphis, TN
3—DUSTIN RHODES
254, Austin, TX
4—DUTCH MANTEL
224, Oil Trough, TX
5—KERRY VON ERICH
260, Denton, TX
6—MASTER OF PAIN
320, parts unknown
7—BILL DUNDEE
228, Manchester, England
8—RICK MORTON
228, Memphis, TN
9—TONY ANTHONY
235, Bucksnort, TN
10—BAM BAM BIGELOW
368, Mt. Laurel, NJ

ACW: **ACW champion**—Colt Steel; **1**—Sam Houston; **2**—Nelson Royal; **3**—Todd Champion; **4**—Ken Shamrock; **5**—Spike; **6**—Samoan Tai; **7**—Sheinobi; **8**—Tommy Angel; **9**—Ricky Nelson; **10**—David Isley.

CWF: **Continental champion**—Dennis Condrey; **1**—Tom Prichard; **2**—Dan Davis; **3**—Wendell Cooley; **4**—Alan Martin; **5**—Jerry Stubbs; **6**—Adrian Street; **7**—Terrance M. Garvin; **8**—Mike Davis; **9**—Don Harris; **10**—Todd Morton.

FCW: **FCW champion**—Steve Keirn; **1**—Kendall Windham; **2**—Al Perez; **3**—Ho Chi Win; **4**—Mike Graham; **5**—Tyree Pride; **6**—Lou Perez; **7**—Brett Sawyer; **8**—Jim Backlund; **9**—Dick Slater; **10**—Dustin Rhodes.

ICW: **ICW champion**—Tony Atlas; **1**—Joe Savoldi; **2**—Ivan Putski; **3**—Vic Steamboat; **4**—Ken Patera; **5**—Mike Sharpe; **6**—Kendall Windham; **7**—Col. DeBeers; **8**—Tom Brandi; **9**—Scott Putski; **10**—Mike Kaluha.

PNW: **PNW champion**—title vacant; **1**—The Grappler; **2**—Billy Jack Haynes; **3**—Art Barr; **4**—Carl Styles; **5**—Scotty the Body; **6**—Top Gun; **7**—Nord the Barbarian; **8**—Scott Peterson; **9**—Col. DeBeers; **10**—Al Madril.

WWC: **WWC champion**—Steve Strong; **1**—Carlos Colon; **2**—Ivan Koloff; **3**—TNT; **4**—Invader I; **5**—Jim Valiant; **6**—Abdullah the Butcher; **7**—Kamala; **8**—White Angel; **9**—Kareem Muhammad; **10**—Rip Rogers.

RATINGS ANALYSIS

Every month, this column will tell fans how we go about rating nearly 200 wrestlers in 18 different categories. It is a behind-the-scenes look at the most important—and respected—ratings system in the sport. This column is vital reading for all wrestling fans.

Tracking Trends. There's a new number-one duo in our Tag Team ratings. **Tully Blanchard** and **Arn Anderson—The Brain Busters**—unseated **Demolition** for the WWF World tag team title on July 18 at The Centrum in Worcester, Massachusetts. Tully and Arn are the only team in history to win both the NWA and WWF World tag team titles. **Ax** and **Smash's** record-setting title reign ended nearly 17 months after it began at WrestleMania IV.

The Brain Busters

The loss dropped Demolition out of the top spot and down two notches to number three, and catapulted Anderson and Blanchard to number one. Although the nature of their victory was extremely controversial—a disqualification in the second fall should have prevented the title from changing hands—the ratings board decided that Blanchard and Anderson's history as a team, and their inherent skill, warranted placement at number one.

Several other tag teams were affected by the title change—especially **The Road Warriors**, who drop to number four. **Michael Hayes** and **Jim Garvin**, the new NWA World tag champs, enter the ratings at number two. "They're just not established enough to be number one," Editor-in-Chief **Stu Saks** argued.

TOP 10: **Ric Flair** returned in stunning fashion to score a convincing victory over **Terry Funk** and moves back into the Top 10 at number two; Flair is poised to take over the number-one position from WWF World champ **Hulk Hogan** ... **Sting** had his NWA TV title held up at the Baltimore Bash, but wrestled impressively against **The Great Muta**; he catapults over **Rick Steamboat** in the ratings. Muta is on the verge of cracking the Top 10 ... British Commonwealth champ **Chris Benoit** came back quickly after an automobile accident and quickly lost the title. One night later, he got it back. Benoit's guts and determination earned him an entrance into the Top 10.

Rating the managers. There's no doubting the influence of managers in the sport. With that in mind, we've rated the top 10 managers. A brief analysis follows.

MANAGERS

1—**BOBBY HEENAN**
Andre the Giant, Brain Busters, Rick Rude

2—**GARY HART**
The Great Muta

3—**ELIZABETH**
Hulk Hogan, Brutus Beefcake

4—**PAUL E. DANGEROUSLY**
The Samoan Swat Team

5—**JIM CORNETTE**
The Midnight Express

6—**PAUL ELLERING**
The Road Warriors

7—**SENSATIONAL SHERRI**
Randy Savage

8—**GEN. SKANDOR AKBAR**
Devastation Inc.

9—**SLICK**
The Twin Towers, Rick Martel

10—**TEDDY LONG**
Skyscrapers, Norman the Lunatic

Analysis: After years of frustration, **Bobby Heenan** is now the most successful manager in the sport. **Rick Rude** is the WWF Intercontinental champ, while **Tully Blanchard** and **Arn Anderson** are the World tag champs ... **Gary Hart** has done a super job bringing along **The Great Muta** ... **Elizabeth** has been quiet but effective in her handling of **Hulk Hogan** and **Brutus Beefcake** ... **Paul E. Dangerously** has one of the most brilliant and devious minds in the sport ... **Jim Cornette** is slipping but is still one of the most influential men in the NWA ... **Paul Ellering** has the hardest job in sports: keeping **The Road Warriors** motivated. Recent events prove that he's succeeded ... **Sensational Sherri** has used a hands-on approach to managing ... **Gen. Skandor Akbar** has dominated the World Class rulebreaking scene over the past year ... **Slick** is slipping ... **Teddy Long** has strong, young talent, but might be misusing **Sid Vicious** and **Danny Spivey**.

Whaddya think? It's been a controversial month in "Ratings Analysis," and we'd like to know your opinion about the Top 10 and Tag Team ratings, as well as our special managers ratings. The address for mail is: "Ratings Analysis," c/o *The Wrestler;* Box 48; Rockville Centre, NY 11571. □

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